

# Saipan Tribune

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**GOT A NEWS TIP?**

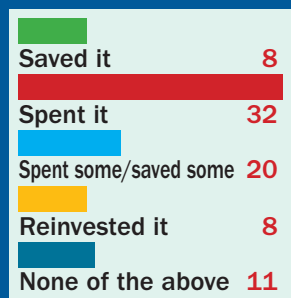
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## POLL RESULTS

For those who received refunds from the NMI Retirement Fund, what did you do with the money?



Sunday, January 5, 2014

## INSIDE

### NATION



The deep freeze expected soon in the Midwest will be one to remember. **► PAGE 16**

### WORLD

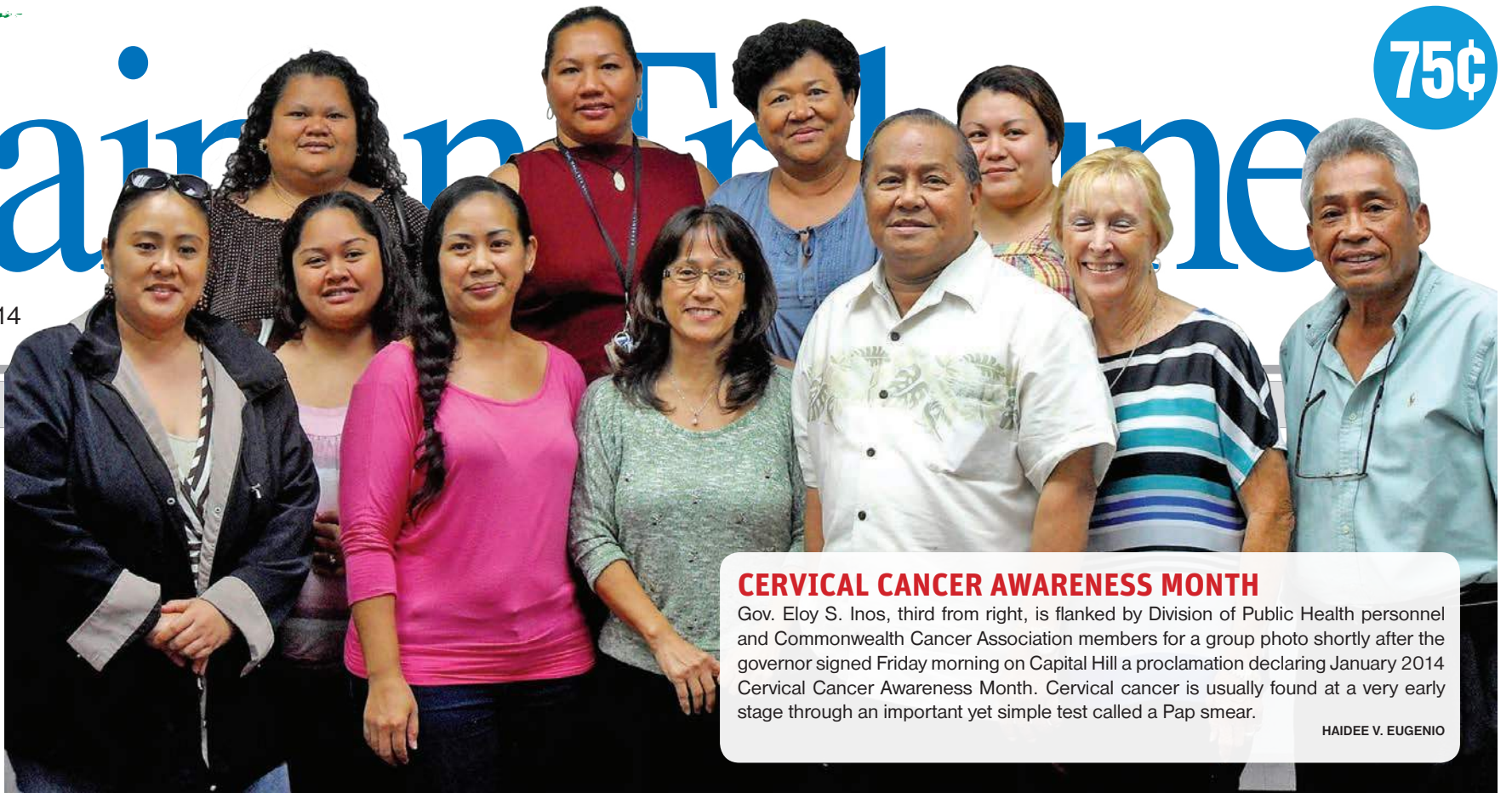


Iraq's CITY OF Fallujah has fallen into the hands of an al-Qaida group. **► PAGE 17**

### FOCUS



Ask Americans to imagine life in 2050, and you'll get some dreary visions. **► PAGE 18**



## CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, third from right, is flanked by Division of Public Health personnel and Commonwealth Cancer Association members for a group photo shortly after the governor signed Friday morning on Capital Hill a proclamation declaring January 2014 Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. Cervical cancer is usually found at a very early stage through an important yet simple test called a Pap smear.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

# Changing relationship with America is long shot—Inos

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

**G**ov. Eloy S. Inos is cautioning against a “shot-gun approach” to raising issues with the United States over immigration and military plans to use more islands for live-fire training, saying that changing the CNMI’s political relationship with the most powerful country in the world is “a long shot.” Instead, he suggests that Covenant Section 902 negotiation is the right way to go about it.

» **Inos recognizes ‘frustrations’ with US, but says 902 is right avenue**

This comes on the heels of the House of Representatives’ passage of a bill creating a Second Marianas Political Status Commission that would examine “whether the people desire continuing in a political union” with the U.S. under the Covenant signed almost 38 years ago.

“We’re in for the long haul,” Inos said of the relationship between the CNMI and the United States.

The political status commission bill is now with the CNMI Senate.

Inos acknowledges some members **See CHANGING on Page 4**

## DUE TO FUNDING SHORTAGE

### Manta Band cancels Asia competitions

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

The much-awaited performance of the CNMI’s Manta Ray Band in the Asian music circuit will no longer push through after the group decided to cancel its participation due to a funding shortage.

This decision was finalized during the members’ meeting Monday last week, as confirmed by musical director and conductor William DeWitt.

“It is true that we had to cancel the Japan-Korea competitive tour. It was a very difficult decision made by our

**See MANTA on Page 4**

## Presidential proclamation on NMI submerged lands planned

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and Gov. Eloy S. Inos separately confirmed the White House’s plan for a presidential proclamation transferring submerged lands to the CNMI, months after President Barack Obama signed Public Law 113-34 that conveys 3 miles of submerged lands to the Commonwealth.

Exempted, however, are those immediately around U.S. military-leased areas, Inos said, referring to Farallon de Mendinilla and Tinian.

Inos said his administration is having conversations with the U.S. Department of Defense with respect to

**See PRESIDENTIAL on Page 4**

## Lower Base junkyard on fire for 2 days

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

A fire of still unknown cause at an abandoned junkyard for vehicles and tires in Lower Base burned for two days since Friday afternoon.

As of 6pm yesterday, thick smoke could still be seen coming from two portions of the junkyard.

Department of Public Safety Fire Division spokesperson Jocelyn Alvarez said that firefighters cleared the area yesterday at 5:19pm, but put the place under fire watch as there was still smoke.

Alvarez said a DPS fire engine was brought to the scene yesterday and

### RELATED NEWS

► **Smoke advisory issued due to Lower Base fire. PAGE 8**



Burned tires and garbage continue to belch smoke as of 6pm yesterday from an abandoned junkyard in Lower Base. The fire of unknown cause began Friday afternoon and occurred again Saturday morning.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

firefighters continued watering the area to prevent the blaze from re-igniting.

Alvarez said the smoke from the burned rubber tires may be toxic and he urged affected residents in the area who may not be feeling well to seek treatment

at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Alvarez said fire investigators have yet to determine the cause of the blaze.

He said the first DPS Fire Unit arrived at the scene on Friday at 4:58pm, shortly

**See FIRE on Page 4**

**2 plead guilty in poaching of fruit bats case. PAGE 2**  
**House panel recommends rejecting order to merge DEQ, CRM. PAGE 3**



# Local



Officials and representatives of Saipan World Resort and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. gather for a group photo during a donation ceremony at the hotel Friday morning. From left are SWR sales and marketing manager Mike Babauta, CHCC facilities management director Warren Villagomez, SWR HR manager Miriam Seman, CHCC hospital administrator Jesse Tudela, and SWR housekeeping manager Nestor Arreza.

## Public hospital receives donated blankets, bed sheets

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. received Friday a new batch of linens, boosting the public hospital's inadequate supplies of bed sheets and blankets for its patients.

The Saipan World Resort's latest donation of hundreds of linens includes 650 bed sheets, 250 duvet sheets, and 600 pillowcases.

These donated items are in addition to the supplies recently donated Delta Air Lines, which turned over more than 200 duvet sheets and about 150 bed sheets from Tropical Laundry.

Miriam K. Seman, Saipan World Resort HRO manager, told *Saipan Tribune* that the supplies they donated are all in good condition and would be a great help for the hospital.

"I've been to our hospital a couple of times and I see that they don't have enough supplies. So I made the recommendation to the management that we donate these bed sheets and duvets to help the patients. All these are in a very good condition and would surely bring comfort to them,"

Seman said during Friday's turnover at the hotel.

According to hospital administrator Jesse Tudela, CHC sincerely appreciates the donation and vowed to make good use of the items. He specifically recognized Saipan World Resort general manager Hyung Cho Kim, Seman, sales and marketing manager Mike Babauta, and housekeeping manager Nestor Arreza for making the donations possible for the corporation.

"With these donations, we have more than enough to carry out with our services to our patients," Tudela told *Saipan Tribune*, admitting that it's been some time since the hospital bought new linen supplies due to funding constraints.

"With these donations, we won't have that issue anymore where we have to wait for the clean sheets from the laundry," he said.

With Tudela during Friday's turnover rites were CHCC facilities management director Warren Villagomez, facilities manager Joaquin Deleon Guerrero, hospital maintenance manager Manny Aaron, and medical supply office staff.

## 2 plead guilty in poaching of fruit bats case

Former Rota customs officer Albert A. Taitano and former Division of Fish and Wildlife staff David A. Santos pleaded guilty Friday in federal court to charges of conspiring to poach a breeding colony of threatened Mariana fruit bats in 2008.

The trial in the case was supposed to start on Jan. 13, 2014, but Taitano and Santos agreed to plead guilty as part of a deal with the U.S. government.

They both pleaded guilty to a count of conspiring to unlawfully take and transport a threatened species—a misdemeanor offense.

Taitano and Santos will be sentenced in March 2014.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth R. Backe appeared for the U.S. government at the hearing.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona presided over the case.

Taitano and Santos were indicted in 2011 with retired police lieutenant Adrian Mendiola

over the same alleged poaching incident in 2008.

Only Mendiola's jury trial proceeded in May 2011 in federal court. At the time, the court dismissed without prejudice the charges against Taitano and Santos at the prosecution's request.

Jurors later found Mendiola guilty of unlawful possession of a threatened wildlife but not guilty of unlawful receipt or acquisition of threatened wildlife.

On April 13, 2013, the U.S. government filed a superseding indictment, charging Taitano and Mendiola with conspiring to unlawfully take and transport a threatened species, and transporting a threatened species taken in violation of law. The U.S. government sought to forfeit the defendants' shotguns.

According to the superseding indictment, Taitano and Santos poached a fruit bat colony on Rota on Nov. 1, 2008. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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# House panel recommends rejecting order to merge DEQ, CRM

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

After almost five hours of meeting with Division of Environmental Quality and Coastal Resources Management officials Friday morning and afternoon, the House Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

later voted to recommend to the full House of Representatives the rejection of Gov. Eloy S. Inos' Nov. 12 executive order merging DEQ and CRM over concerns this could result in loss of federal funds.

The governor, in a separate interview that day, said he would like to know the committee's

specific findings, adding that not merging the two agencies could probably result in loss of federal funds and not the other way around, given CRM's prior issues with its federal grantor over management and reporting.

## » Governor wants legislative findings to justify action on EO

"I don't know where the federal fund is going to be lost in this deal; in fact it probably be lost if we didn't do this [reorganization]," Inos said.

The governor reiterated that the merger is meant to provide efficiency and reduce duplication of functions and duties between DEQ and CRM. He said the EO "was put together in consultation with affected

federal agencies."

The JGO Committee's vote came a few days before the 60-day legislative deadline to either modify or reject the governor's executive order, or the merger becomes effective after Jan. 12.

Of the four members of the committee that participated in the late Friday afternoon deliberation, three voted to recommend rejecting the reorganization: JGO chair Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. Anthony Benavente (Ind-Saipan).

The fourth, JGO vice chair Rep. John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan), voted to let the full House decide on the plan. He said he's not taken a position

on the issue other than present the EO to the full House at its next session.

"At the time of the voting, I didn't really feel that there's sufficient information given to support the rejection," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Three other members of the JGO panel were not in the deliberation: Rep. Antonio Agulto (Ind-Saipan), floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), and Rep. Teresita Santos (R-Rota). Agulto is married to the acting CRM administrator so he abstained from the meeting and deliberation; Demapan was in the meeting with DEQ and CRM but was not around for the deliberation and voting, while Santos was not on Saipan at the time.

Sablan said he was banking on the assurance from DEQ and CRM that they will request both the agencies' federal grantors—the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—to submit a letter stating their position on the governor's executive order. Sablan said they're hoping the letters would state whether EPA and NOAA funding to the two local agencies will be negatively impacted if they are to be merged, among other things.

Deleon Guerrero, in a separate interview, said he was not given a compelling reason to merge the two agencies after meeting with DEQ and CRM.

See **HOUSE** on Next Page

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## UNDER EXTENDED AETNA CONTRACT

### 40 pct. premium hike could mean \$1.2M in added cost

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

A week after canceling a request for proposals for a government health insurance program, Gov. Eloy S. Inos said that extending the contract with current provider Aetna International by up to 60 days could mean some \$1.2 million in added cost to the government due to the 40-percent premium increase.

He said the government will issue a new RFP, depending on the work of a committee comprised of personnel from the Office of the Attorney General, NMI Retirement Fund, Department of Finance, and the office of the Insurance Commissioner/Department of Commerce.

"This last RFP gave us a lot of insights just because of the premium costs—it's skyrocketing. With limited providers, lim-

ited services, higher deductibles and higher co-pays, we have to come up with a proper mix to make sure it's affordable to the members. As you know, the government is picking up about 50 percent of the premium. So it's going to be a drain on the general fund as well," he said in an interview at the signing of a proclamation declaring January 2014 Cervical Cancer Awareness Month on Friday.

The governor said the 40-percent premium increase could be manageable if the total cost is managed correctly.

"For example, you eliminate some of the services to be covered, then the impact of the 40 percent won't be as great but if we maintain the same level of service then... Right now it's costing the whole program, about \$19 million/\$18 million a year—half of that is shouldered

by the government. You do the math, 40 percent increase, you can see how much that's going to cost in annual additional premium," Inos added.

In the new RFP, the government would want the "widest coverage" available in the United States, for example.

"We ask them to give us options and so forth. We need to give them ideas to the membership, which one comprised retirees and active, given that retirees cost more to insure," he added.

The additional cost to the government as a result of the health insurance premium hike, along with the \$5 million that the government has to come up with to add to the \$20 million it already budgeted for in fiscal year 2014 to remit to the Retirement Settlement Fund, means more revenue-generating mea-

sures and cost-cutting for the government.

But Inos said work hour cuts "will always be the last resort" as far as additional cost-cutting measures are concerned.

The governor said once the video lottery and electronic gaming projects are rolled out, then the government could expect new revenues that would help cover the budget shortfall for both the Retirement Settlement Fund and health insurance costs.

"The only thing right now that we need funded is the \$5 million increase in required amount to make the minimum guaranteed payment for the Retirement and \$7 million, now probably \$9 million, in additional health insurance premium," Inos added.

Besides the video lottery and electronic gaming bills that are now laws, there are still pending revenue-generating bills that could help the CNMI, including amendments to the Sales Receipts Act.

able to provide a bulldozer in order for the firefighters and fire engines to gain access to the junkyard.

The junkyard has been abandoned for several years. It is not clear whether the government or a private company used to own the junkyard.

tween the parties," he added.

At Sablan's request, U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Lisa Murkowski introduced S. 256 or the submerged lands legislation that became law. It's the same law that delayed the CNMI's 50-cent minimum wage increase for 2013 and 2015.

Meanwhile, CNMI Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan) introduced a bill that the Senate later passed, empowering the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to manage, use, and dispose of submerged lands off the Commonwealth's coast.

The new submerged lands law gave the CNMI control of the underwater coasts of its islands. The CNMI became the last U.S. coastal state or territory to own its offshore lands.

get for this trip has yet to be finalized, but it is expected to amount to \$40,000 to \$45,000, factoring in estimates for food, ground transportation, gas, airfare, and lodging.

This month the band will conduct a fundraising car wash, while a major ticketed concert will be held in February to raise more funds.

According to DeWitt, the invitation to perform and compete in Asia is the probably the most remarkable request the band has ever received, given the rarity of foreign ensembles meeting their strict qualification requirements. For example, the Manta Band had to successfully pass an audition process to perform not only in the adjudicated event, but also for concerts during which no judging will take place.

engine to assist DPS firefighters on Saturday.

Alvarez said a barrier at the compound and overgrown grasses and trees hampered firefighters' efforts to extinguish the blaze.

On Saturday, the Emergency Management Office was

the scene, the area was already partially engulfed with fire.

The fire went on and off Friday and was controlled at 9pm. On Saturday at 7:30am the fire occurred again.

Firefighters from the Commonwealth Ports Authority also responded with one fire

ties are limited because DoD "can go back and assert authority over those surface waters."

"But what we want is to continue to have use of it. Hopefully, in the end, submerged lands in those areas will be transferred under direct control of the CNMI but we can utilize that for economic reasons. We don't know of any development that might come up that would require offshore projects on those areas and we don't know if there are minerals within that area," the governor added.

Sablan separately said that subsequent to U.S. Public Law 113-34's signing, he wrote to the governor suggesting that the CNMI consult with appropriate federal departments for the transfer of the 3-mile territorial sea and submerged lands to the

the generous support of the Public School System and the executive and legislative branches. The band's renewed appeals to these sources in November and December were, however, either declined or weren't responded to.

"We are, of course, very disappointed but mindful that the CNMI is experiencing difficult economic challenges at this time," he said.

According to DeWitt, band officers and leaders discussed how it was in everyone's best interests to not postpone their difficult decision any longer, given the uncertainty of receiving further support from the government or PSS.

DeWitt said the band had already raised about \$40,000, including pledges. A portion of this amount has al-

ready been deposited with World Projects LLC, the host organization for these competitive music festivals. He hopes a portion of the \$11,000 deposit will be refunded or at least applied to a future major international performance opportunity.

DeWitt said the band wholeheartedly thanks the private sector for the outpouring of support they have received.

Donors and supporters who would like to ask about how their donations will now be used or to request a refund are encouraged to contact DeWitt.

As for the band's new plans at this time, DeWitt said they are now preparing for the upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam, which is scheduled in March. It was learned that the bud-

## CHANGING

From Page 1

of the Legislature and some community members' "frustrations" with the United States, but he said the CNMI needs to be "smarter" in approaching the issues.

Without saying whether he supports or opposes the bill, the governor said he is "basically questioning the wisdom" of the measure. Moreover, the governor said he himself has issues with the U.S. but that is why conversations are continuing, including over military plans for some of the islands.

Inos said that when the Covenant was negotiated and signed, it was a new relationship and an untested territory that people are now just beginning to see the effects "and so that's why we have a provision in the Covenant where we can sit down and negotiate or discuss these areas of concern."

The governor was referring to Section 902 discussions where in the U.S. president and the CNMI governor each appoint their representatives to discuss issues of concerns. Either party can initiate the talks.

"That part is easy," Inos said of appointing representatives. "Identifying the issues that are germane to a 902-type consultation is the [main] thing." He said some issues could be addressed administratively rather than through 902 talks.

Inos also said 902 talks are costly. But more importantly, "we just don't know how the U.S. would react."

Besides initiating 902 talks, bringing concerns to the attention of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is another avenue to get America's attention, he said.

Just like other territories with much bigger populations, the CNMI has a nonvoting delegate to Congress.

"I think we just need to be smarter in addressing our issues, pick the right issues, the right battle for that, and we should go in... Don't do gunshot approach... That's one of the mistakes we usually make here; we do a shotgun approach and then in the end we lose all of them. All we need is to pick a winning issue, go for it and bat it out," he added.

He said some people have to

think twice before wanting to change the CNMI's relationship with the United States or de-link from America because that also means giving up their U.S. citizenship.

He pointed out this is not the first time the issue of creating a Second Political Status Commission has come up in the Legislature.

"I know in previous legislatures they filed that kind of bill. Many times I believe it's probably out of frustration with many of the issues. But this is who we are and we just have to work harder and smarter," he added.

On March 24 this year, the Northern Marianas will mark its 38-year political relationship with the United States. U.S. President Gerald Ford signed on March 24, 1976, a joint congressional resolution approving a mutually negotiated "Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States." That paved the way for Northern Marianas residents to become U.S. citizens.

Weeks ago, on Dec. 19, the CNMI House voted to pass the bill and move the political status commission bill to the Senate.

Of the 18 House members present, 15 voted "yes" and three voted "no."

The three who voted "no" and actively participated in the healthy debate were House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan). Absent were the bill's author, Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), and Rep. Teresita Santos (R-Rota).

The debate centered on the CNMI's political relationship with the United States and federal control over local minimum wage, immigration, and certain areas for military uses.

This also came weeks after a majority of the CNMI House members voted to adopt a resolution opposing a pathway to improved immigration status for thousands of long-term, legal aliens in the CNMI as contained in two U.S. Senate and U.S. House sweeping immigration reform bills. S. 744 and H.R. 15 both grant pathway to citizenship for some 11 million undocumented aliens in America.

majority of the members of the House and Senate specifically modify or disapprove it.

The House JGO Committee met with DEQ and CRM officials from Friday morning to afternoon, breaking only for lunch.

Lawmakers, including those not members of the JGO panel, took turns asking CRM and DEQ, along with counsel Kate Fuller, about the reorganization's impacts and intent.

The governor's executive order establishes the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality. It will be headed by an administrator and will have two divisions: DEQ and CRM.

## HOUSE

From Page 3

"The merger could probably complicate things for the two agencies. They have distinct functions. It could also affect the CRM board which decides on major siting permits," Deleon Guerrero said.

He added that the JGO report recommending rejection of the merger order could be ready as early as today. A House session could be held this week.

Rejecting the governor's reorganization plan becomes effective 60 days after submission to the Legislature, unless a

## FIRE

From Page 1

after a concerned citizen called DPS to report the blaze at the junkyard, located north of the CTSI Building.

When firefighters arrived at

## PRESIDENTIAL

From Page 1

submerged lands.

The governor also discussed the issue of submerged lands with respect to the northernmost islands that are part of the Marine National Monument.

"I want to see how that thing unfolds. We're going to be communicating with the White House in the next day or so. There is a planned presidential proclamation transferring the submerged lands to the CNMI with some exceptions and the exception is those adjacent waters, immediately around the military-leased area," he said.

While the CNMI has access to these areas even with a lease with DoD, Inos said the activi-

## MANTA

From Page 1

band members after reviewing our financial progress," DeWitt told *Saipan Tribune*.

With the clock ticking on the deadline to pay the group's expenses this month, he said it was becoming apparent that they would fall short of funds. He disclosed that the band is short of about \$80,000 to \$90,000 to cover all the competitions' expenses.

*Saipan Tribune* earlier learned that the Manta Band needed about \$150,000 for the Asian music competitions. Of the \$40,000 funds it raised, the members contributed \$20,000 out of their own pockets.

In previous trips, DeWitt said that they were blessed to obtain



# Zoning leaves it up to Legislature to identify site for adult business park

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

The Zoning Office has identified the Old Samoan Housing in Garapan, the old dumpsite in Puerto Rico, and the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque as possible sites for the CNMI's Adult Business Park.

According to Zoning administrator Therese Ogumoro, these sites are mostly owned by the government and are just among the areas initially identified by the agency for the Adult Business Park.

Zoning board members, however, later agreed to give the Leg-

islature the decision to choose the best option for the park.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Zoning Office has 120 days to come up with a recommendation on which site is best suitable for designation as an adult business park. This is based on Saipan Local Law 18-6 signed in October, which removed the adult overlay businesses in Chalan Pale Arnold and authorized the Legislature to seek recommendation from the Zoning Office for a new location.

Ogumoro pointed out during Friday's board meeting that the deadline to submit a recommendation to the Legis-

lature is fast approaching, with the agency now on its 70<sup>th</sup> day. Without a properly designated site, this prevents the issuance of permits to any investor who may want build such businesses on island, she said.

"This is a very initial presentation that the board needs to know. Because of the passage of SLL 18-06, Zoning is not authorized to designate [the site for the business park] but we can recommend to the [Saipan Northern Islands Legislative Delegation], which gave us 120 days to do so," explained Ogumoro.

Ogumoro said the Old Samoan Housing site, which is locat-

ed between Orchid Streets and the ABC Building in Garapan, is one option. She disclosed that the site is Department of Public Lands property, isolated from residential dwellings, located at the center of the shopping district, has easy access to pedestrian paths, and is adjacent to the tourist market.

One thing that may derail this plan is the possible designation of the area as a historical site, she said.

She also identified the site of the former Puerto Rico dumpsite as DPL property. Like the first choice, Ogumoro said this

site is isolated from residential villages, utilities are available, is located near the port area, has direct access to a pedestrian path, and is adjacent to tourist markets.

"This is also still up on the air as I heard that the said area is also being eyed for a children's park," said Ogumoro. The site may also be included in the military retention plan as agreed in the Covenant between the CNMI and the U.S. government.

Zoning board chair Diego Blanco, however, sees no urgency to create an adult business park at this time and raised concerns over what is covered by "adult businesses."

"Is there really any urgency

to create an adult business park?" asked Blanco, who expressed unwillingness to recommend to the Legislature a specific site for the park.

He pointed out that the Zoning Office already had the authority to designate such a place but this was taken out by the Legislature with the signing of SLL 18-06.

"We already did recommend...and they removed it. So with all due respect, we just leave it up to the Legislature to decide," said Blanco.

According to Ogumoro, Zoning has about 10 sites identified as potential sites for the ABP but only three were presented to the board Friday.

## Woman allegedly bit BF, chased him with knife

A woman allegedly bit her boyfriend below the right nipple and chased him with a knife at their house in Lower Miha, Garapan on New Year's Day.

Daisina Sherry Suda, 40, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, assault, and disturbing the peace. Her bail was set at \$10,000 unsecured bond.

The alleged victim sustained a laceration below his right nipple.

Police detective Flora Danica B. Aguon stated in her report that two police officers were dispatched to Lower Miha on Wednesday at 11:02am for a reported domestic violence incident. She said the two officers

came upon a shirtless and barefooted Bangladeshi man who was running on the roadway.

The man flagged down the police officers' vehicle while pointing north.

The alleged victim claimed that his girlfriend, Suda, was chasing him with a knife. One officer walked toward Suda and told her to stop from getting closer to the alleged victim.

Suda stopped and explained that her boyfriend beat her up. The alleged victim, however, directed the attention of the officer to a silver kitchen knife that was on the ground that she allegedly threw at him. He also showed the officer his injury.


The boyfriend told police

that he was resting inside the bedroom when Suda came and they had an argument. Suda allegedly bit the man below his right nipple so he pushed her away. She then grabbed a kitchen knife and allegedly told him she was going to kill him.


The man ran outside to seek help but Suda followed him and allegedly threw the knife at him but missed.

Another police officer arrived and procured the knife as evidence. Suda was then arrested.

Last September, Suda and her boyfriend were both arrested after engaging in a brawl at their house in Garapan. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**  
**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

**COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

January 06, 2014

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Office of the Governor  
Saipan, MP 96950      Tel: (670) 664-2200 or (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

**REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS**

On or after January 21, 2014, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Honolulu Field Office, for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383), as amended, to undertake the following projects and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Expansion of the Division of Youth Services Shelter.	To rehabilitate and expand the existing building structure to accommodate the clients being served by DYS.	Capitol Hill, Saipan	\$351,200.00

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Central Office in Garapan, Saipan and may be examined or copied during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI or Austerity Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the projects may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan. All comments received by January 21, 2014, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

**RELEASE OF FUNDS**

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD Honolulu Field Office that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Eloy S. Inos consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

**OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS**

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of fifteen days following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Honolulu Field Office, 1132 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS  
Governor

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## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES RFQ14-GOV-028



### Lower Base Water Distribution System Improvement

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting statements of qualification (SOQ) from licensed architectural and engineering firms (A&E) for the Design of the Lower Base Water Distribution System Improvement Project, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The full Request for Qualifications (RFQ) documents may be obtained by contacting Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, by telephone at (670) 664-2274 or by email at psas@saipan.com. All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:00 pm, January 17, 2014 to Mr. Sasamoto by facsimile at (670) 664-2279.

The design and construction of the Lower Base Water Distribution System Improvement Project is made possible by a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), U.S. Department of Commerce. All element of the construction process shall meet standards of EDA. The EDA grant is matched by a grant from the Office of the Insular Affairs (OIA), U.S. Department of the Interior and requires a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance.

One original and four (4) copies shall be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than **2:00 PM, (CNMI local time), on February 5, 2014.**

The SOQ shall be marked "**Lower Base Water Distribution System Improvement Project, RFQ14-GOV-028**". For firms within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of SOQ must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on February 5, 2014.** Firms located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on February 5, 2014,** and may be transmitted via facsimile to **(670) 664-1515** or email [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For firms located outside the CNMI, one original and four (4) copies of SOQ must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **February 5, 2014** AND must be received no later than **February 14, 2014.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all SOQ and to waive any imperfections in any SOQ if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All SOQ shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos  
Governor, CNMI

/s/ Herman S. Sablan  
Director, Procurement & Supply

## Newborn loses fingertip at Guam hospital

**HAGATNA, Guam (AP)**—A newborn had one of her fingertips cut off at a Guam hospital while being treated for a high fever.

*Pacific Daily News* reported Thursday that the baby's mother, Johanna Borja of Tamuning, says the cut was discovered as nurses were changing bandages securing an intravenous line. But Borja says the nurses didn't give her a clear explanation of what happened.

Guam Memorial Hospital Administrator Joseph Verga confirmed the incident but told the newspaper he can't provide details because it's an open investigation.

"We're taking this situation very seriously, the same way we handle all...concerns

raised," Verga said. "We'll take very strong, appropriate action based on the outcome of the investigation."

Borja brought her 2-week-old daughter to the hospital Dec. 17 with a fever of 100.1 degrees, she said. The cut to the baby's right pinky apparently happened Dec. 19, after she asked nurses to replace the baby's bandages because one was bleeding and was taped in a way that scratched the baby if she touched her face.

Borja said she and her boyfriend waited nearly one hour for the bandages to be changed before she walked into the exam room and was met by the baby's doctor.

"She told us, 'Your daughter's pinky has been cut,'"

Borja said.

The cut sliced off the baby's fingernail, running diagonally from the top of the fingertip to near the top knuckle.

Borja says nurses told her the baby didn't lose any bone, but didn't offer an explanation despite her repeated demands for answers.

"They just kept saying, 'Oh, I don't know what happened,'" she said.

Borja said two surgeons were called in and said it was too late to try to reattach the fingertip. She said they weren't able to determine exactly when the finger was cut.

Borja said she has not heard from the hospital, but has filed a police report and hired a lawyer.

"I'm very angry," she said.

## Ex-convict allegedly slams girlfriend's head against wall

An ex-convict was arrested again Thursday, this time for allegedly repeatedly slapping his girlfriend and slamming her head against a wall as she was holding their 2-month-old baby at their apartment in Tanapag. The infant was hurt when the power cord line of an electric fan hit the baby's shoulder.

Sidney Capelle Kani, 32, was arrested for assault and battery, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace.

Police said the girlfriend's lip was swollen and the right side of her face had scratches.

The infant was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center for treatment of a bruise and scratches on the left shoulder.

Bail was set at \$10,000 cash for Kani's temporary release.

Police detective Isapen Boluku stated in her report that Kani's girlfriend, their 1-year-old daughter, and a 2-month-old baby were sleeping when Kani arrived about Thursday midnight, allegedly in a foul mood.

He yelled at his girlfriend and allegedly punched an electric fan, causing it to fall to the floor. He folded a blanket and allegedly threw it twice at her face. He allegedly grabbed the fan and slammed it down on the floor. He also threw a TV set and DVD player on the floor and yelled profanities at her.

The couple's 1-year-old daughter was awakened by the noise and started crying. Kani slammed the fan on the floor four or five more times, causing the power cord line to ricochet and hit the left shoulder of the infant, who was in a crib.

As the girlfriend tried to comfort the baby, who was then crying, Kani walked over to his girlfriend, allegedly pulled her hair, and slapped her face several times. He also allegedly grabbed her hair and hit her head against the wall four to five times as she was holding the infant.

The girlfriend's mother, who was sleeping inside her

bedroom in the adjacent apartment unit, was awakened by the noise and told Kani to stop. Kani allegedly yelled at her to go back to her room and pushed her.

The girlfriend said she has no idea why Kani, who has not gone home since Dec. 31, 2013, was behaving like that.

In July 2008, Kani was arrested for allegedly beating up his girlfriend and three other persons in As Matuis. In December 2007, police arrested Kani for allegedly beating up his then minor girlfriend at their apartment in Tanapag.

It was not immediately clear whether she was the same victim in all those three domestic violence cases.

In July 2000, Kani pleaded guilty in federal court to two counts of interference with commerce by robbery in connection with two robbery cases at a poker arcade and a store. He was sentenced to prison. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



## CNMI Water Task Force IFB14-GOV-039



Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting Sealed Bids from qualified individuals or firms for the lease of a warehouse on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The procurement specifications and special terms and conditions will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan on or after **December 23, 2013.**

All questions regarding this Invitation for Bids shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 PM, **January 3, 2014** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, at facsimile number (670) 664-2279.

Sealed Bids must be marked "**Lease of Warehouse**", **IFB14-GOV-039.** An original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than **2:00 P.M., local time, on January 22, 2014** at which time Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC 70-30.3). Bid procedures shall be in full compliance with NMIAC Section 70-30.3-205: Competitive Sealed Bidding. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs. Award of a contract is contingent upon approval from DOI/OIA.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All Bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/Eloy S. Inos  
Governor

/s/Herman S. Sablan  
Director, Procurement & Supply

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122  
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC  
POST OFFICE BOX 5222  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950  
TEL: (670) 234-6547  
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0033
Plaintiff,	:	
-v-	:	
THERESE LIZAMA SALAS,	:	
Defendant.	:	

### SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 14, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 459, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 800 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 09 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4176, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

**Date, Time, and Place of Sale.** The sale will be held on Friday, January 24, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.** The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 24th day of December, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122  
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC  
POST OFFICE BOX 5222  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950  
TEL: (670) 234-6547  
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0129
Plaintiff,	:	
-v-	:	
HENRY J. YAROFALPIY and the Estate of BERNADITA LINES YAROFALPIY,	:	
Defendants.	:	

### NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on December 24, 2013, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 002 G 283, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1904, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

**Date, Time, and Place of Sale.** The sale will be held on Friday, January 31, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.** The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 26th day of December, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122  
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC  
POST OFFICE BOX 5222  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950  
TEL: (670) 234-6547  
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ATKINS KROLL, INC,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 93-0347 and consolidated cases
Plaintiff,	:	(S.C. Nos. 92-415, 92-517, 92-604, 92-660, 92-674, 92-680, 92-718, 92-825, 92-826, 92-829, 92-1073, 92-1325, 92-1420, 92-1484, 92-1494, 92-1563, 93-147, 93-156, 93-163, 95-411, 95-701, 97-987, 99-258, 01-1322, and 02-768)
-v-	:	
CARMEN L. MUNA, aka CARMEN FUJIHIRA, and CINDY L. MUNA,	:	
Defendants.	:	

### FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on April 12, 2013, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Carmen L. Muna, aka Carmen Fujihira, and Edwin P. Fujihira, in and to the following property:

Lot No. 002 G 216, situated in Kagman, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,037 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 06 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1903 dated May 14, 1990.

**Date, Time, and Place of Sale.** The sale will be held on Friday, January 17, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.** The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 17th day of December, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer



# Town hall meeting for Affordable Care Act

The Department of Commerce will hold a town hall meeting at 5:30pm on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014, at the American Memorial Park Theater, to address the implementation of the Afford-

able Care Act in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The goal of this meeting is to educate the public on the portion of the federal health-care reform that extends to the

territories; the implementation efforts currently being made in the Commonwealth; and how the CNMI government plans to mitigate the challenges of implementing the strict insurance market reforms.

A representative of the Group Health and Life Insurance Trust Fund, which administers the CNMI government employee health plan, will also be present to answer questions.

Questions and comments will be taken at meeting after the informative presentation portion. All are encouraged to attend this event.

For more information on the Affordable Care Act in the CNMI, visit the CNMI Consumer Assistance Program website at [www.cnmicap.wordpress.com](http://www.cnmicap.wordpress.com).

wordpress.com.

For questions or complaints about health insurance in the CNMI, contact consumer advocacy officer Kaitlyn Neises-Mocanu by phone at (670) 664-3007 or through email at [advocacyoffice@commerce.gov.mp](mailto:advocacyoffice@commerce.gov.mp). **(Office of the Governor)**

## IN CELEBRATION OF PIC SAIPAN'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

# Duck Race for Cancer winner to get \$2.5K

In celebration of its 25th anniversary, Pacific Islands Club Saipan is upping the ante for its 2014 PIC Duck Race for Cancer, set for Feb. 8 at the San Antonio landmark's Lazy River.

According to Duck Race director Glenn Policare, PIC Saipan is pledging \$2,500 in

cash to the first rubber duck out of 2,500 total to cross the finish line on race day.

Cash prizes will also be awarded to the second, third, and fourth place ducks. In addition, PIC Saipan will be awarding \$250 cash and a PIC Room Stay Package to the owner of

the 25th duck to cross the finish line.

"This event started back in 2009 and has been growing each and every year. Last year we sold 2,000 ducks. Our target is 2,500 this year. I know it is a high task, but after living here on Saipan for as long as I have and to see the outpouring of generosity by the wonderful

people here for so many causes, I know we can reach our goal," said Policare.

Proceeds from the 2014 PIC Duck Race for Cancer will once again be donated to the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

All in all, PIC Saipan has donated more than \$30,000 to CCA since the event's inception, Policare said. CCA uses the funds to help those fighting cancer here in the CNMI and to help raise awareness so future generations can live cancer-free.

In addition to the rubber duck

race, PIC Saipan will also be hosting The Race Around the River, also known as the Human Duck Race. A total of 24 swimmers will swim one lap around the PIC Saipan Lazy River. Outfitted with beak, caps, goggles, fins, and lifejackets, the participants will be vying for bragging rights and a great team building award.

"That has got to be one of my favorite parts of the day," said assistant race director and statistician Dennis Tababa. "To see 24 people in yellow swim

camp with duck beaks and lifejackets swimming around the river just to help those in need is a great moment."

PIC employees are out selling duck tickets from now until race day. The Sports, Entertainment and Activities staff will be selling ducks at the Garapan Street Market Jan. 30 and Feb. 6. Tickets are only \$5 each. For more information about the Duck Race or the Race Around the River, contact Policare or Tababa at 237-5147. **(Mark Rabago)**

# Monthly Paseo cleanup collects 980 lbs of trash

PDM Promoters, Inc. held its monthly cleanup of the Paseo de Marianas a bit earlier than usual last Saturday with volunteers collecting a total of 980 lbs of trash.

The non-profit organization's spokesperson Sonia Awa said they scheduled their monthly cleanup a couple of Saturdays earlier than usual because they anticipated that a large amount of trash had accumulated at the Paseo de Marianas following the Christmas and New Year events held at the area.

The 2013 Christmas in the Marianas held its Christmas Tree Decorating Contest, Christmas Caroling Competition, and Mochitsuki Festival the past Saturdays at the Paseo de Marianas.

In all, 25 Saipan Awaodori Team members and eight Kinpachi Restaurant staff took part in the cleanup.

The 980 lbs of trash they collected consisted mostly of canned and bottled beers. The volunteers also did some bush-

cutting along Paseo de Marianas and Coral Tree Avenue.

As for the age-old problem of betel nut spit, Awa was happy to report that their cleanup last Saturday yielded no new betel but stains around Paseo de Marianas and its surrounding environs.

Awa also commended the tenants of Garapan Square for keeping their building clean all the time.

"The only building and surroundings that always seem to maintain cleanliness at the Paseo de Marianas is the Garapan Square where Power 99 is located. Everyday I can see staff sweeping in front of their area," she said.

The Division of Environmental Quality helped PDM Promoters in disposing of the trash they collected.

The group's monthly cleanups collect up to 1,000 lbs of trash during these drives and is supported by major sponsors TSL Foundation, DFS Galleria Saipan, and Docomo Pacific. **(Mark Rabago)**



# CNMI DOL OSHA Consultation Outreach

**Do you have a business? Are you worried that a serious workplace injury could disrupt or even shut down your business? Can't afford to hire a safety consultant? If you are, the CNMI Department of Labor OSHA Consultation Office is your answer to your worries. OSHA On-Site Consultation Program is FREE and CONFIDENTIAL and is perfect for you!**

**OSHA On-Site Consultation Services is separate from enforcement and DO NOT result in penalties or citations.**

**For more information, please call the CNMI DOL OSHA Consultation Office at 664-3156/57**

**(670) 287-7531 (Vincent) email: [vdcamacho68@gmail.com](mailto:vdcamacho68@gmail.com)**

**(670) 287-7533 (Elaine) email: [elaine.pangelinan@gmail.com](mailto:elaine.pangelinan@gmail.com)**

**We are here to help you run a safe business.**

**This ad is paid for by federal funds under the USDOL OSHA Administration.**



## INVITATION FOR BID MVA-IFB-14-2310

**For: Purchase of Vehicles for the Marianas Visitors Authority**

Closing Date: **January 30, 2014**

Time: **3:00 P.M.**

Submit sealed proposals to:

Marianas Visitors Authority  
San Jose Professional Building  
P.O. Box 500861  
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., (closed 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.) Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com).

/s/ JAMES NELSON  
Acting Chairman of the Board

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO  
Managing Director



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL MVA-RFP-14-2311

**For: Tourist Exit Survey Services for the Marianas Visitors Authority**

Closing Date: **January 30, 2014**

Time: **3:00 P.M.**

Submit sealed proposals to:

Marianas Visitors Authority  
San Jose Professional Building  
P.O. Box 500861  
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., (closed 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.) Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com).

/s/ JAMES NELSON  
Acting Chairman of the Board

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO  
Managing Director





## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



### INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-14-006

#### CHALAN KIYA-KANAT TABLA WATERLINE CONNECTION (W12-022)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Chalan Kiya-Kanat Tabla Waterline Connection in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope-of-work consists of installation of new six (6) inch ductile iron distribution main connecting the Kanat Tabla booster pump through the existing Chalan Kiya water distribution main line. It also includes replacement and installation of various new valves, and water service lateral connections at designated areas within the Chalan Kiya Village.

**This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.**

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **240 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Bid Tender Documents may be picked-up, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable); at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **December 24, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-14-006, Chalan Kiya-Kanat Tabla Waterline Connection, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 14, 2014**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 27, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Christi Lazaro, Engineer, CUC Water-Wastewater Division via email [christi.lazaro@cucgov.org](mailto:christi.lazaro@cucgov.org) and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Support Assistant, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER  
Executive Director



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC RFP 14-001

#### Saipan Geothermal Resource Assessment

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified firms to collect and evaluate scientific data to better determine the potential for development of geothermal energy on Saipan. Available information suggests that the geothermal gradient beneath Saipan may be sufficiently steep to develop geothermal energy to generate electricity.

The technical complexity of the Project and the need to collect and evaluate extensive data will require the successful Proposer to provide the expertise from various professional disciplines, conduct exploratory drilling, and provide equipment and materials necessary to complete the Scope of Work.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by February 10, 2014 to be considered.

A pre-proposal Conference will be held on January 27, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST), at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 14-001 Saipan Geothermal Resource Assessment" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 24, 2014**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 10, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org). Responses to Questions will be provided no later than February 18, 2014.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER  
Executive Director,  
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Manager, Procurement & Supply  
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

## Smoke advisory issued due to Lower Base fire

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Department of Public Safety, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., have issued a smoke advisory in response to a fire located at the old L&T garment factory in Lower Base and adjacent to a junkyard with old tires and other plastic materials.

Due to the particulate matter contained in the smoke generated from the fire, the potential for air pollution exists.

The CHCC Division of Public Health is issuing the following health advisory for people who have respiratory condition.

■ People who have asthma, emphysema or bronchitis should stay indoors (except for purpose of evacuating) close their windows and minimize outdoors activities.

■ People who are experiencing symptom of respiratory distress should seek medical care immediately.

■ Anyone who is concerned about the smoke may choose to stay indoors as well.

Residents of Lower Base, Western Garapan all the way to Micro Beach and surrounding area should continue to monitor local news for future advisories from the Division of Public Health.

For more information contact Warren F. Villagomez, director of Public Health Emergency Preparedness, or CHCC Public Health Medical Officer Dr. Daniel Lamar by calling CHCC's operator at 234-8950. You may also contact EOC dispatch by calling 237-8000. **(PR)**

## Guam couple sentenced in 'ice' case

David Taimanglo Quichocho Jr. was sentenced Friday in the District Court of Guam to 37 months incarceration, and five years of supervised release. Quichocho's wife, Dominica Bato Quichocho, was also sentenced Friday to a two-year term of probation, which includes six months of home confinement and community service.

Quichocho Jr. and Dominica Bato Quichocho both pleaded guilty in December 2012, to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine hydrochloride, in violation of Title 21 U.S.C. Section 841(a)(1). Quichocho Jr. ordered over 5 grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride from a supplier in California. The supplier concealed small amounts of methamphetamine hydrochloride in letters sent via first class mail to Guam. Quichocho Jr. then instructed his spouse, Dominica Bato Quichocho, to pick up the letters containing the drug. Notably, the letters containing approximately 1.88 grams of the drug were detected and intercepted by a U.S. Postal Inspector. **(USAO)**

## Flashback

### A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 6, 2006

#### Continental brings in charter flights

Continental Micronesia has begun providing charter flights bringing in Japanese tourists to Saipan following the pullout of Japan Airlines' regular flights to the CNMI. Continental joins in the efforts of other air carriers that have been providing charter services to Japanese tourists coming to the islands. JAL and Omni Airlines have been providing charter services from Japan since the holiday season. This January, Continental Micronesia has provided at least three flights from three Japanese cities, according to vice president for sales and marketing Wally Dias.

#### Freshman lawmakers undergo legal seminar

Incoming freshman legislators yesterday learned more about laws and the legal system during a seminar at the Judicial Complex. The new representatives and senators, along with veteran lawmaker Rep.-elect Manuel Tenorio, attended the Law and the Freshman Legislator Seminar sponsored by the Commonwealth Judiciary and the Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society. Associate Justice Alexandro C. Castro gave an overview of the Covenant and the U.S. and CNMI Constitutions. The incoming lawmakers watched video presentation about the inner workings on the appellate court and its decision-making process.

January 6, 2007

#### NMI immigration in spotlight

The U.S. Senate has begun gathering data on local immigration in relation to a possible extension of federal immigration to the Northern Mariana Islands. Visiting Office of Insular Affairs deputy assistant secretary David B. Cohen said that prominent U.S. senators Pete V. Domenici and Jeff Bingaman recently wrote Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne asking for information about the CNMI immigration situation. Domenici, a Republican from New Mexico, was chairman of the powerful U.S. Senate on Energy and Natural Resources during the 109th Congress. Bingaman, a Democrat from the same state, the committee's ranking member last year, is the expected chairman of the panel in the new Congress.

#### Street signs for fallen soldiers turned over

The street signs named after the CNMI's fallen soldiers were turned over to the Saipan Mayor's Office on Thursday, with their installation to follow soon after. Saipan Mayor's Office consultant Mike Malone received the street signs from the office of Rep. Arnold Palacios. Malone told Saipan Tribune that the street signs were funded by the congressman's office. Malone said the installation of the street signs would follow upon the order of Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela. A Tanapag street has been renamed in honor of one of the two CNMI soldiers killed in Iraq last year. The road previously known as Apinomw Avenue is now called "SSG Wilgene Lieto Road," after then acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez signed House Local Bill 15-32 in October.

January 6, 2008

#### Labor delays hearings on cases

The Department of Labor has postponed the hearings of many cases as it has only one available administrative hearing officer. Labor Administrative Hearing Office Administrator Rose T. Ada-Hocog told Saipan Tribune on Friday that only Jerry Cody is left as administrative hearing officer because the contract of Herbert Soll was not renewed due to lack of funding. With the shortage of staff, Ada-Hocog said they are rescheduling many of the cases currently on calendar. Ada-Hocog notified their clients to verify the status of their case schedule with the front officer clerk at the Administrative Hearing Office.

#### Groups check on progress of Laulau revegetation

Ken Kramer, Marianas Resource Conversation & Development coordinator and author of the Laulau Project planting plan, led a small group of Beautify CNMI and MINA volunteers up to the Laulau revegetation project site this past week. Marianas RC&D is coordinating a project that will help supplement the project with trees grown at local schools. Kramer, who is also coordinating the school project, said that they "needed to see what trees were doing well so that we know what trees the schools can grow for planting next year." The volunteers braved thorns, sword grass, and sweltering heat as they hiked up the steep hill to check on the trees.



280 members of Task Force Guam back on island

GUAM (Pacific News Center)— With tears, and open arms, family and friends welcomed home 280 members of

Air Force training on FDM

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Jan. 6, from 1pm to 4pm and 9pm to 11:55pm
- Jan. 7, from noon to 6pm
- Jan. 8, 9, and 14, from noon to 4pm and 9pm 11:55pm

The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)

F. MATTHEW SMITH  
Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC  
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero  
San Jose Village  
P.O. Box 501127  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427  
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256  
  
Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff,  vs. PLASTAG ENTERPRISES, INC., the ESTATE OF PLASIDO M. TAGABUEL, DORIS TAGABUEL, ARLENE I. TAGABUEL, and JOHN HENRY I. TAGABUEL,  Defendants.	Civil Action No. 04-0482A  AMENDED NOTICE OF AUCTION
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The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Plastag Enterprises, Inc., the Estate of Plasio M. Tagabuel, Doris Tagabuel, Arlene I. Tagabuel, and John Henry I. Tagabuel in the following described, real property situated in the CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot 2003-4-2, (formerly part of Lot 2003-4-R1, formerly part of Lot 2003-4, formerly part Lot 2004-R2, formerly part of Lot 2003 REM, formerly part of original 2003, TD 771) as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2110/88, the original of which was recorded 11 May 88 as Document No. 88-1525 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at 2:00 p.m., on Friday, January 31, 2014, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.
2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
  - a.) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
  - b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
  - c.) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit. Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Plastag Enterprises, Inc., the Estate of Plasio M. Tagabuel, Doris Tagabuel, Arlene I. Tagabuel, and John Henry I. Tagabuel in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 23rd day of December 2013.  
  
/s/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO, COMMISSIONER  
Department of Public Safety

Task Force Guam who landed at the A.B. Won Pat International Airport early Sunday morning.

Many carried signs welcoming individual soldiers by name, thanking them for their service. Cheers erupted as the Guard members stepped off

the plane, and rushed to greet their loved ones.

The chartered Omni Air International flight touched down about 12:15am carrying the first wave of the nearly 600 Guam Guard members who left the island last February

and spent nearly 10 months in Afghanistan in support of "Operation Enduring Freedom." They were spread out in seven units during their time in Afghanistan.

Gov. Eddie Calvo and Lt. Gov. Ray Tenorio went aboard

the aircraft before the soldiers disembarked and spent a few minutes with them to welcome them back individually. The governor called it a "happy day for Guam" and said, "We are blessed by their selfless sacrifice. I'm honored to welcome them home, and I'm thankful for their safe return."

This was the largest ever deployment of troops from Guam and there are still over 300 members of the Guam Guard's 1-294th Infantry Regiment under going demobilization at Fort Shelby in Mississippi. They are expected to be back on island within the coming weeks.

Fee waivers for Jan. 7 NMC info session participants

Individuals who participate in the Northern Marianas College's free information session will qualify to receive fee waivers for the NMC admission application and placement tests for the upcoming spring 2014 semester—a savings of up to \$75.

The info session will take

place on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2014, in Room D-1 at the As Terlaje campus from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

Those interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers are encouraged to attend this event to meet and speak with faculty and staff from the college's different degree and certificate programs.

Admissions, financial aid, and other NMC staff will also be on hand to answer questions and to assist in the admissions and financial aid process.

The college will also be accepting admissions application for the spring 2014 semester at

the info session. The deadline for submitting applications was originally on Dec. 20, 2013, but the college is making an exception for those who attend and submit their application at the info session.

NMC offers several degree programs, including bachelor degrees in education, associate degrees in business, business administration, liberal arts,

nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. It offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

For more information about the information session and/or applying to NMC, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. (NMC)

**Robert Tenorio Torres**  
**Attorney at Law**  
PIPlata Drive, Whispering Palms, Chalan Kiya  
P.O. Box 503758  
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859  
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS

**MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST,**  
  
**Plaintiff,**  
  
**vs.**  
  
**WILLIAM DLG. ANGUI and JESSIE A. ANGUI,**  
  
**Defendants**

Civil Action  
No. 06-0590

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO CONFIRM SALE OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the Motion to Confirm Sale of Mortgaged Property by Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust in this matter has been filed with the Court and said Motion is set for a hearing on this 9th day of January, 2014, at 1:30 pm before Judge Wiseman in the Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dates this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2013.

/s/  
CLERK OF COURT

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
TO LEASE AND OPERATE A LIMITED FOOD  
& BEVERAGE CONCESSION AT THE FRANCISCO  
C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**CPA-RFP-003-14**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) invites the submission of proposal to lease and operate a Limited Food & Beverage Concession at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals prepared in accordance with instructions stated in the Request for Proposal (RFP) package will be received and accepted by the CPA until 4:30 p.m., January 6, 2014. Late proposals will not be considered. The CPA is not responsible for late or misdirected delivery of proposals.

The proposal packages and other consideration may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport beginning December 6, 2013 during the hours of 7:30 to 4:30 upon the payment of \$50.00. This payment is nonrefundable. Payments shall be made at the Accounting Office which is located at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor on the Departure Terminal in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

One original and two copies of the proposals shall be submitted in a sealed package and clearly marked on the outside "Proposal to Lease and Operate a Limited Food & Beverage Concession CPA-RFP-003-14."

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA  
Executive Director

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
TO LEASE AND OPERATE FOOD & BEVERAGE  
CONCESSION AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN  
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**CPA-RFP-004-14**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) invites the submission of proposal to lease and operate a Food & Beverage Concession at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals prepared in accordance with instructions stated in the Request for Proposal (RFP) package will be received and accepted by the CPA until 4:30 p.m., January 6, 2014. Late proposals will not be considered. The CPA is not responsible for late or misdirected delivery of proposals.

The proposal packages and other consideration may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport beginning December 6, 2013 during the hours of 7:30 to 4:30 upon the payment of \$50.00. This payment is nonrefundable. Payments shall be made at the Accounting Office which is located at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor on the Departure Terminal in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

One original and two copies of the proposals shall be submitted in a sealed package and clearly marked on the outside "Proposal to Lease and Operate Food & Beverage Concession CPA-RFP-004-14."

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA  
Executive Director

**Edwin T. Takai & Kimberly Ann R. Diaz**  
P.O. Box 7169 SVRB  
Saipan MP 96950

Telephone No.: 285-0935/989-7372

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF )  
THE ADOPTION OF: ) FCD AD  
WAYNE ALBERT ) NO. 14-0001  
TAIMANGLO TAKAI )  
Minor Child ) NOTICE OF  
By: ) HEARING  
EDWIN TUDELA )  
TAKAI and KIMBERLY )  
ANN REYES DIAZ )  
Petitioner(s) )

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on January 27, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 2nd day of January, 2014.

Patrick V. Diaz  
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

**TOM TEDDY BEAR ENTERTAINING PLAZA**

**GRAND OPENING**  
**OF OUR NEW BRANCH**  
Welcome to the newest fun place on the island.

**GET A FREE GIFT FOR EVERY \$10 PURCHASE**  
Promo starts from Jan. 01-31, 2014

**OPEN: MONDAY - SUNDAY  
10AM - 10PM - BOTH LOCATIONS**

DHL TOM TEDDY BEAR ENTERTAINING PLAZA MCDONALD  
MIDDLE ROAD

PC HOME PAWN SHOP TOM TEDDY BEAR ENTERTAINING PLAZA  
KOBLEVILLE  
HAN NAM MARKET



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XXIV, Issue No. 3Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Putin's Olympic moment: Not glorious but embarrassing

In 2007, when the International Olympic Committee awarded the 2014 Winter Games to the Russian city of Sochi, it raised hopes that the Kremlin was open to liberalization and reform. President Vladimir Putin did his best to charm the committee, and it seemed to work. "The Games will help Russia's transition to a young democracy," said Dmitry Chernyshenko, who led the successful bid.

Lately, there have been surprising developments in Russia. Putin indulged the Christmas spirit by granting clemency to 30 Greenpeace activists, two members of a punk protest band and dissident tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky. He helped secure a deal with the Syrian government to give up its chemical weapons arsenal.

But you'd have to ignore a lot to believe the Olympics will work to moderate Putin's taste for repression at home and abroad. He was able to release all those prisoners only because his regime had put them behind bars on transparently bogus pretexts. He was able to get cooperation from Bashar Assad only because he's such a loyal ally of the savage Syrian dictator.

Putin's stern response to the horrific suicide bombings in Volgograd this week may be seen as understandable and justified. But when a Russian strongman threatens terrorists with "complete annihilation," the words suggest he will not be terribly discriminating about meting out punishment. Reuters reported that though 87 people were detained after the attacks, "there was no sign any were linked to the bombings or suspected of planning further attacks."

Ham-fisted police tactics are just another day at the office for Putin. When he was inaugurated in May 2012, hundreds of protesters were arrested, and some were beaten. Other Muscovites were locked up merely for wearing the white ribbon that symbolizes opposition to Putin. His press secretary expressed regret: "From my point of view, the police acted mildly—I would have liked them to act more harshly."

"Harsh" could be the president's middle name. Over time, his policies have gotten more punitive and paranoid, not less. What Russians are enduring today, says the pro-democracy organization Freedom House, is "the most severe crackdown against human rights since the collapse of the Soviet Union."

Putin has harassed advocacy organizations under the guise of protecting Russia from "foreign agents," under a law that carries a two-year prison sentence for failing to register with the government. "Over a thousand nongovernmental groups were subjected to aggressive and intrusive inspections," says Human Rights Watch.

Some of these organizations were intimidated into shutting down. Others are being forced to expend resources fighting in court. None has gotten the idea that Putin wants to encourage debate on the country's political future.

Putin also showed his disdain for freedom by pushing through legislation effectively making it a crime to advocate gay rights in the presence of minors—what the Kremlin calls "propaganda for non-traditional sexual relations." That law has drawn rebukes around the world—including a clear one from President Barack Obama. He pointedly said he and the first lady would be too busy to attend the Games, while naming a delegation that

See PUTIN on Next Page



## Epiphany: A day for fruitcakes

“We three kings of Orient are” is a familiar line this day, the first day of Epiphany in the liturgical calendar. It is the discovery of an intrusion from outside symbolized by the Magi’s visit of the infant Jesus in Matthew’s story.

The monk Thomas Merton expressed his feeling of epiphany when he wrote: “It is a glorious destiny to be a member of the human race...like news that one holds the winning ticket in a cosmic sweepstake. I have the immense joy of being man (sic), a member of a race in which God Himself became incarnate.... [We] are all walking around shining like the sun” in his *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*.

The celebration of Christmastide marks an ending of a Jesus-turned-Superstar’s birthday party and a beginning of a life journey, now festively exploding in the gastronomic display of crab cakes at the onset of the carnival in New Orleans, to the great fruitcake toss in Colorado when royals, jesters, and fools thrust cake projectiles the farthest.

Today is a fruitcake celebration in an awakening to the fact that we engage in the universal practice of deception, revealed in our shared pleasure/disdain of Snowden’s exposure of the NSA’s massive eavesdropping on our private affairs.

Intelligence gatherers are wont to say: If you haven’t got anything to hide, you haven’t got anything to be afraid of. The truth, of course, is that everyone has something to hide, or, at least, something we would prefer not to look directly at, if at all!

Let me start where I am, in China, a land of indirection by design, and avoidance in practice. As a first activity in my class, I ask students to fill up a profile form. This invites students to start thinking about themselves, a subject they do not need to read a book about, but is the subject of their oral English discourse. Keeping “face” (mianzi) where good appearance is bestowed and maintained at all cost and by all means is universally observed. To encourage students to speak about real things rather than fiction, “Face stays outside the door” is my class admonition. Giving up mianzi is like pulling teeth but it is one of the lessons students learn by the end of the semester.

But we are ahead of our story. After a student writes name, date, and place of birth in the form, it asks what their parents do, then ventures into what they like, think, and do; also, what they plan to be in the future. Invariably, a student is brave enough to say: “This information is secret.” Personal accounts in China are private, with mist in haze rather than clarity applied in pompous talk laced with metaphors and abstractions.

Movie director Zhang Yimou made a point by indirection in his movie *Hero* with Jet Li, an assassin tasked to eliminate the Qin Emperor, only to realize that the Huangdi was capable of uniting the warring states. The assassin gave up his mission.

By JAIME VERGARA  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara is a resident of Saipan teaching at the Shenyang Aerospace University in China. His email is [pinoypanda2031@aol.com](mailto:pinoypanda2031@aol.com).



Hero in the movie title refers to the unpopular emperor rather than the well-liked assassin.

Hero came out after Mao died and some officials suggested that perhaps it was time to pull the helmsman down from his pedestal. Yimou’s response, though metaphorically delivered, was clear: say what you will about the Chairman but he united China. The same point was officially made, though in low tones, during Mao’s 120th birth anniversary this Dec. 26.

Now, what has this got to do with Snowden, the NSA, and the wiretaps on our phones?

The reason we do not wish to be “found out” is that we are all guilty of deception. We do not like who we really are! Cosmetics recommend makeovers so we won’t look the way we naturally do. Advertising convinces us that we are not whole unless we purchase a good or a commodity. If we don’t, we are made to feel less, so we work harder, leaving us anxious and tired most of the time. Then, we buy imitation brands on the cheap and wear them knowing that we are unable to pay for the real thing.

Many foreign workers on Saipan go home to pretend who they are not! That’s not a critique. It is an acknowledgement that we all play the game of pretend! I wore a pair of loafers in Honolulu once and my sister was impressed that I could afford a pair of CD shoes. It was not, however, a Christian Dior but a Chrisdien Deny, with the word monsieur under the label.

Society follows escape mechanisms so that we do not face the truth that “life is never the way we want it.” The real point of liturgical confession is to acknowledge that we really do not wish to live the life we have. Original sin sees the truth of nakedness as shameful; it would rather dress it up or deny it. In our evolution to be human, we have discovered a highly tuned ability to deceive, and to stay that way with ease and comfort.

“Fruitcake” is a pejorative term we use of the unpredictably wild and woolly way beyond extremes. I do not condone nor justify NSA’s snooping, but I understand why we react vehemently over the violation of our privacy. I am glad there are fruitcakes that mirror the truth! Snowden is a fruitcake. May there be more like him, today and evermore!



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Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published.

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## 2014 immigration debate

**W**ith the chain of historic fraud and lies from the WH and the disastrous failure of Obamacare, can President Obama shift gears and convince the American people that it's time to approve comprehensive immigration reform now in gestation? Or would the loss of credibility and competency make his pitch an issue folks could easily dust off as just another irrelevant rhetorical nuisance?

Beyond the paralysis in Washington, it's important to explore the mounting opposition to immigration and amnesty across the country. The federal government provides four types of benefits and services that are relevant to this issue:

**Direct benefits:** It includes Social Security, Medicare, unemployment insurance, and workers' compensation.

**Means-tested welfare benefits.** There are over 80 of these programs that, at a cost of nearly \$900 billion per year, provide cash, food, housing, medical, and other services to roughly 100 million low-income Americans. Major programs include Medicaid, food stamps, the refundable Earned Income Tax Credit, public housing, Supplemental Security Income, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

**Public education:** At a cost of \$12,300 per pupil per year, these services are largely free or heavily subsidized for low-income parents.

**Population-based services:** Police, fire, highways, parks, and similar services, as the National Academy of Sciences determined in its study of the fiscal costs of immigration, generally have to expand as new immigrants enter a community; someone has to bear the cost of that expansion.

The cost of these governmental services is far larger than many people imagine, according to Robert Rector and Jason Richwine, Ph.D., of Heritage Foundation. For example, in 2010, the average U.S. household received \$31,584 in government benefits and services in these four categories.

"The governmental system is highly redistributive. Well-educated households tend to be net tax contributors: The taxes they pay exceed the direct and means-tested benefits, education, and population-based services they receive.

"For example, in 2010, in the whole U.S. population, households with college-educated heads, on average, received \$24,839 in gov-

ernment benefits while paying \$54,089 in taxes. The average college-educated household thus generated a fiscal surplus of \$29,250 that government used to finance benefits for other households.

"Other households are net tax consumers: The benefits they receive exceed the taxes they pay. These households generate a "fiscal deficit" that must be financed by taxes from other households or by government borrowing. For example, in 2010, in the U.S. population as a whole, households headed by persons without a high school degree, on average, received \$46,582 in government benefits while paying only \$11,469 in taxes. This generated an average fiscal deficit (benefits received minus taxes paid) of \$35,113.

"The high deficits of poorly educated households are important in the amnesty debate because the typical unlawful immigrant has only a 10th-grade education. Individuals with less than a high school degree head half of unlawful immigrant households. Another 25 percent of household heads have only a high school degree.

"Some argue that the deficit figures for poorly educated households in the general population are not relevant for immigrants. Many believe, for example, that lawful immigrants use little welfare. In reality, lawful immigrant households receive significantly more welfare, on average, than U.S.-born households. Overall, the fiscal deficits or surpluses for lawful immigrant households are the same as or higher than those for U.S.-born households with the same education level. Poorly educated households, whether immigrant or U.S.-born, receive far more in government benefits than they pay in taxes.

"In contrast to lawful immigrants, unlawful immigrants at present do not have access to means-tested welfare, Social Security, or Medicare. This does not mean, however, that they do not receive government benefits and services. Children in unlawful immigrant households receive heavily subsidized public education. Many unlawful immigrants have U.S.-born children; these children are currently eligible for the full range of government welfare and medical benefits. And, of course, when unlawful immigrants live in a community, they use roads, parks, sewers, police, and fire protection; these services must expand to cover the added population or there will be 'congestion' effects that lead to a decline in service quality.

"In 2010, the average unlawful immigrant household received

hourly rate was \$3.05 an hour). "If someone tells you, 'guaaaaantee, honest to God I pay you next week,' don't believe them," they'd say with a hearty laugh and heads shaking in disbelief.

The truth is some of these guys have endured some of the most dehumanizing, demoralizing, and downright disgusting behavior from numerous heartless people here on Saipan, but that hasn't blinded them to the simple fact that we still live in the greatest country in the world (and, arguably, the closest thing to a slice of paradise that our country has to offer). No doubt some of these guys are jaded and a little worse for the wear, but that's life and the more you get beaten down the harder it becomes to get back up. Still, each of them strives to get by on the sweat of his own brow and strength of his own back. I wish more of our own people from the islands could say the same.

The issue of our long-time nonresident residents certainly has political and economical implications, but more importantly it brings us to a crossroad (uniquely our own) with questions implicating the most basic sense of humanity: Do we turn our backs on a handful of downtrodden people who already call the CNMI their home and charge forward into some fictional utopia of golden citizens or do we invite them in for a bite to eat? Don't get me wrong, I am all for strict border control, but in this case I'm not talking about drones of misfit foreigners (or even the entire population of CWs) looking to "invade our way of life." Rather, I'm talking about a small number of people who've given their youth to our islands and walk among us today as old men and women threaded neatly in the fabric of our lives—"Why wouldn't we want to give [these particular] people a chance at a better life?" (Joan Taitano)

I sometimes ask myself this same question when I hear people gripe about the "special privileges" that people with disabilities get in different areas of our society. And yes, some people actually complain about why (for instance) people with mobility impairments (which include some of our elderly) should get special parking spaces? Or, why they should get reasonable accommodations in the workplace and at school?

Again, why wouldn't we want to allow for some measure of accommodations to give people a chance at a better life? The Americans with Disabilities Act is founded on the basic premise that

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



around \$24,721 in government benefits and services while paying some \$10,334 in taxes. This generated an average annual fiscal deficit (benefits received minus taxes paid) of around \$14,387 per household. This cost had to be borne by U.S. taxpayers. Amnesty would provide unlawful households with access to over 80 means-tested welfare programs, Obamacare, Social Security, and Medicare. The fiscal deficit for each household would soar."

As you can see, the issue transcends our paper tiger supplanting indigenous hegemony. At the same time, how would farmlands weather denial of illegal immigrants who work daily to doing the 3Ds: dirty, dangerous and difficult?

### Immigration challenge

Would Congress take up comprehensive immigration reform this year? The one difficult issue is the pathway to citizenship where the parties remain so far apart. A possibility is a compromise involving a pathway that is longer and has more conditions attached to it than were in the Senate bill.

That would displease reformers in that it involves some 11 million illegal immigrants. But both parties must look into luring Latino voters and therein lies the focus of attention as this year's mid-term election begins moving down the campaign trail. We shall see how this issue pans out at the national level.

Here at home, there's powerful opposition from an indigenous group to provide pathway to citizenship for some 12,000 foreigners. It's an issue that has picked up much heat and discussion. It would be interesting to know how this issue would pan out on the campaign trail. Discontentment would be a difficult one to quell on this score.

## 'I love Saipan, pare'

**S**ome of my closest friends on Saipan are non-local, construction/contract workers from the Philippines. Sure I have a number of other friends, local and otherwise, but I (more often than not) find myself imbibing and sharing chasers in the company of my few close "pares," usually after a grueling day's work on any number of projects—we like to joke about being jacks-of-all-trades but masters of none. Occasionally, we stumble into conversations about "status" and the immigration situation as it relates to them.

One of my friends is prone to saying, "I love Saipan, pare. I want to stay here... imagine, I'm more than 20 years already on this island." And that despite the countless stories they tell of people stiffing them on hundreds of dollars in pay (even at the time when their

### PUTIN

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included openly gay athletes.

Putin may have thought hosting the Olympics would boost his stature in Russia and elsewhere. The actual effect, though, has been to focus more attention on his thin skin, contempt for Western values and unquenchable need for control. So even his gesture of charity toward the prisoners he freed merely underscored the arbitrary, secretive nature of his rule, while reminding everyone that those people should never have been jailed in the first place.

The Winter Olympics could have been Putin's opportunity to show the world a country far more humane, democratic and open than it was when the Soviet Union hosted the 1980 Summer Games in Moscow. Instead, he is likely to face protests, overt or oblique, by athletes and spectators. He will find foreign news media examining how he steered Russia off the democratic path it took after the collapse of communism.

Unlike the regime that held power in 1980, Putin has avoided a mass boycott of the festivities by other nations. But he won't avoid a spotlight that reminds the world of his abuses.

**By JIM RAYPHAND**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Jim Rayphand is executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy System, Inc.*



people with disabilities should be afforded a level playing field to allow them equitable access in pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness. It was never about how much more people can get or about putting people ahead of others, but even if it was, so what? "When you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you" (Luke 14: 12-14). In other words, do something good for the sake of doing something good.

I suspect that at the heart of both issues lies a very sad notion of human insecurity wherein some people just don't want to see others succeed regardless of whether or not it has any direct effect on them. Sure, the hardliners will argue that the "political landscape" will change if too many nonresidents suddenly get to vote—but even if that were actually true, so what? Whether the governor of the CNMI is of Filipino, Bangladeshi, or any other ethnic descent other than Chamorro or Carolinian has zero bearing on what I do on my land and in my life...we live in a democracy under the American flag. And, news flash: the political landscape is already changing and will continue to change regardless of "improved status" for the existing few, so give me a break with the fear-mongering propaganda.

None of my Filipino friends or any of the true advocates for people with disabilities are asking for a free handout to live among us... just a chance.






For more on the "special privileges" of people with disabilities or about the Americans with Disabilities (ADA), feel free to contact the NMPASI office at (670) 235-7273/4 [tel.] / 235-7275 [fax] / 235-7278 [tty] or on-line via www.nmpasi.org.



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 77

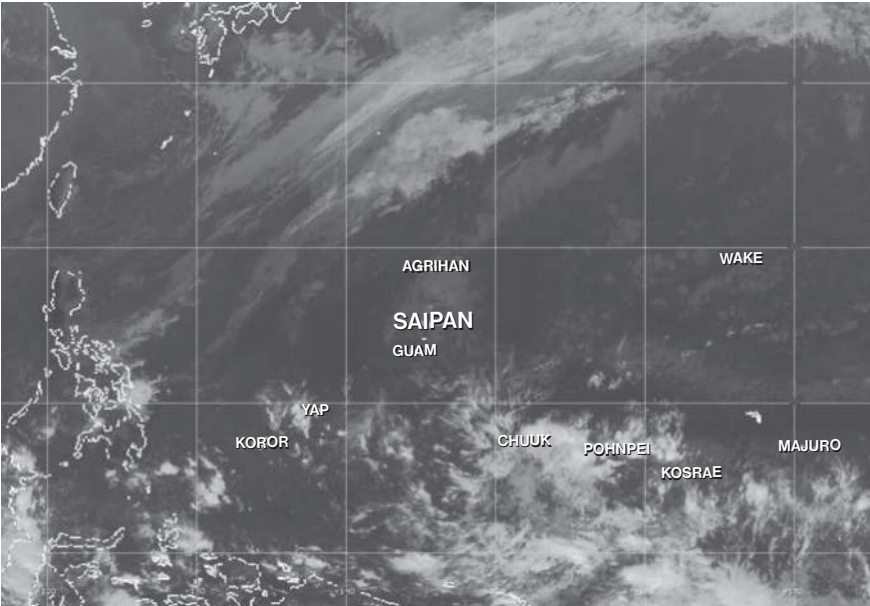
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 60
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 38 ▼ 23
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 65
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 79 ▼ 66
London	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 49
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 76 ▼ 46
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 51
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 82 ▼ 69
New York	Freezing Rain	▲ 44 ▼ 41
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 48 ▼ 35
Paris	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 48
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲ 51 ▼ 39
Rome	Sunny	▲ 58 ▼ 43
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 48 ▼ 28
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 41
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 43 ▼ 29
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 50 ▼ 32
Washington, DC	Freezing Rain	▲ 42 ▼ 41

### Tides

Saipan Harbor			
5:10 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.1 Feet
11:51 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
6:15 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
11:20 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2014

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from west of Iwo To Island at 25N139E to beyond 130E at 20N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are seen along the front and north-westward to beyond 25N. Converging winds south of the front are causing scattered showers over Iwo To Island southwestward within 125 miles of a line from 18N134E to 25N144E. A weak trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers west of Guam across the northern CNMI within 70 miles of a line from 14N144E to 18N148E. A near-equatorial trough stretches east-southeastward from a weak circulation centered south-west of Koror near 3N130E through a second circulation centered south of Chuuk at 2N154E to end near EQ162E. Isolated thunderstorms are occurring from near Yap to southwest of Koror within 120 miles of a line from 10N137E to 3N130E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:45 AM	6:01 PM
Tuesday	6:45 AM	6:01 PM
Wednesday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:02 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:30 AM	10:54 PM
Tuesday	11:15 AM	11:49 PM
Wednesday	11:58 AM	-
Thursday	12:42 PM	12:42 AM
Friday	1:26 PM	1:34 AM

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- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 3, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b> UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota  UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b> UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota  UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
<b>SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)</b> UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b> UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b> UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN</b> UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b> OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b> OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 D2102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29)  D2104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> D2101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily D2103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)</b> MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	<b>BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN</b> MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN  UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM  UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam  UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM  OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM  DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN  UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN  UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b> OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN  UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



## Court of Appeals to provide live audio streaming for proceedings

**SAN FRANCISCO**—The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit plans to offer live audio streaming of all of its proceedings, beginning with oral arguments scheduled for Jan. 6-9, 2014, at the Richard H. Chambers U.S. Courthouse in Pasadena, California.

Internet users can listen to the proceedings online by visiting [www.ca9.uscourts.gov](http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov) and clicking on links listed under "Live Oral Arguments."

Live audio streaming also will be provided for future oral arguments at the James R. Browning U.S. Courthouse in San Francisco, the William K. Nakamura U.S. Courthouse in Seattle, and the Pioneer Courthouse in Portland, Oregon. Hearing dates and other docket information are available at <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/calendar/>.

The court has provided public access to digital audio recordings of all oral arguments heard at all locations since 2003. Digital video recordings of 11-judge en banc courts and some three-judge panels have been available since 2010. Digital audio and video files will continue to be stored online at <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/media/>.

Considered a leader in the use of technology to increase public access, the court earlier this month became the first federal appellate court to use its own resources to provide live video streaming of oral arguments. The court offered online viewing of five en banc proceedings held Dec. 7-9, 2013, in San Francisco.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals hears appeals of cases decided by executive branch agencies and federal trial courts in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions. The court normally meets monthly in Seattle, San Francisco and Pasadena, California; every other month in Portland, Oregon; three times per year in Honolulu, Hawaii; and twice a year in Anchorage, Alaska. (U.S. Courts for the Ninth Circuit)

# China's 'Holiday Travel' films on Saipan

*Holiday Travel*, one of the top 10 information and education television program in China's Shandong province, filmed on Saipan this holiday season. The show's two hosts arrived on Saipan on Dec. 23, along with 12 show guests.

"*Holiday Travel* is unique in that the hosts invite travel lovers and

members of the audience to travel with them to various destinations," said Marianas Visitors Authority marketing director Bruce Bateman. "There was a lot of interaction between guests and hosts while exploring Saipan."

While on Saipan, the production team and guests took an island tour of

popular sites including Banzai Cliff, Suicide Cliff, Bird Island Lookout, Mt. Tapaochau, and various beaches.

The group also enjoyed marine sports and lunch at iconic Managaha, a dinner show at Mariana Resort & Spa, dinner barbecue at Kanoa Resort, an ATV off-road adventure, and shopping at DFS Galleria and

I Love Saipan. Plans for their final day included lunch at Tony Roma's, a submarine tour, and a sunset dinner cruise. The group lodged at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

*Holiday Travel* airs on Life Channel and Variety Channel of Shandong TV Station to 80 million viewers. The show will also air in California. (MVA)



Marianas Visitors Authority marketing specialist Laura Hsiao, in blue, escorts hosts and guests of China's television show *Holiday Travel* at Hyatt Regency Saipan on Dec. 23, 2013.

MVA



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-14-008

#### SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of approximately 18,000,000 US gallons annually of **Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel (Grade No. 2-D S15)** for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel shall be uniform, first quality, ultra low sulfur type, which shall conform in all aspects to the requirements, as set forth in "Standard Specification for Diesel Fuel Oil" ASTM D975-11 or the latest revision.

The RFP package may be obtained upon completion of registration and receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays. Prospective Proposers must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **January 16, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-14-008, Supply & Delivery of Fuel for Power Generation", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **February 6, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The Proposal Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees. Note that the CNMI Government at present exempts the fuel supplier from paying liquid fuel tax (currently, \$0.15/gallon).

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **January 21, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Procurement & Supply Manager, via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email [charles.warren@cucgov.org](mailto:charles.warren@cucgov.org) and Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email [wallon59@yahoo.com](mailto:wallon59@yahoo.com).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER  
Executive Director



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-14-009

#### Integrated Resource Plan & Energy Supply Analysis

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to develop CUC's Integrated Resource Plan, which is a long-range plan that will select the most cost-effective mix of energy resources, both supply-side and demand-side, following a review of commercially available base load and renewable energy alternatives. This project will also include the design and development of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for total system power supply, the design and implementation of financial models to be used for comparing both energy supply and renewable power integration options, along with Independent Evaluator (IE) services to develop and administer third-party, technical and financial review of received energy supply proposals, for the purposes of advising the CUC during the energy supply proposal selection process.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by February 10, 2014 to be considered.

A pre-proposal Conference will be held on **January 28, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**, at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 14-009, Integrated Resource Plan & Energy Supply Analysis" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 26, 2014**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 12, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org). Responses to Questions will be provided no later than February 18, 2014.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER  
Executive Director,  
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Manager, Procurement & Supply  
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



# Kanoa treats employees to 2nd 'Family Fun Day'

By THOMAS MANGLONA II  
CORRESPONDENT

Over 50 employees and their families hit the beach at the Kanoa Resort last Saturday for the hotel's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Family Fun Day.

According to Kanoa Resort executive assistant Cory Quing, the annual celebration started last

year and is a day where all of "the employees and their families are given full access to the pool and Adventure Zone facilities and enjoy lunch and refreshments."

G4S security staff and the hotel's contractors also participated in the four-hour celebration, Quing said.

"It is about us giving back to the people for the services they

have done [for the resort]," said Soc Villanueva, who heads the finance department. "We also want to foster camaraderie and see each other's families as well. We invited the hotel's partners as well to recognize their contributions."

The celebration also featured a raffle drawing that gave away 200 raffle packages that includ-

ed hotel room accommodations, dinner, and other prizes.

Quing explained that the celebration is a combination of the staff's Christmas and New Year party.

While most of the staff were celebrating, the hotel was being run by the managers.

For one G4S security guard, it was a time for her kids to "have

fun and relax before the end of the Christmas break." Although she was on duty at the time, Lailanie Del Cruz said that she cherished the annual celebration as a time for all the employees to come together.

F&B coordinator Jen Deleon, who has worked at the hotel for exactly one year and 11 months now, shared that "it is good to

get to know each other and have a good bonding time with the staff and their family."

Employees and their families enjoyed the hotel's newly installed Adventure Zone facilities that were constructed last year and many of them shared that the celebration was "better than the last one and definitely enjoyable."



Staff, family, and friends line up to enjoy lunch at the Kanoa Resort beach on Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Staff, family, and friends line up to enjoy lunch at the Kanoa Resort beach on Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Kanoa Resort staff and their family pose for a photo.

THOMAS MANGLONA II



Lifeguards and other Kanoa Resort employees pose for a photo during Saturday's celebration.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Kanoa staff and their families.

THOMAS MANGLONA II



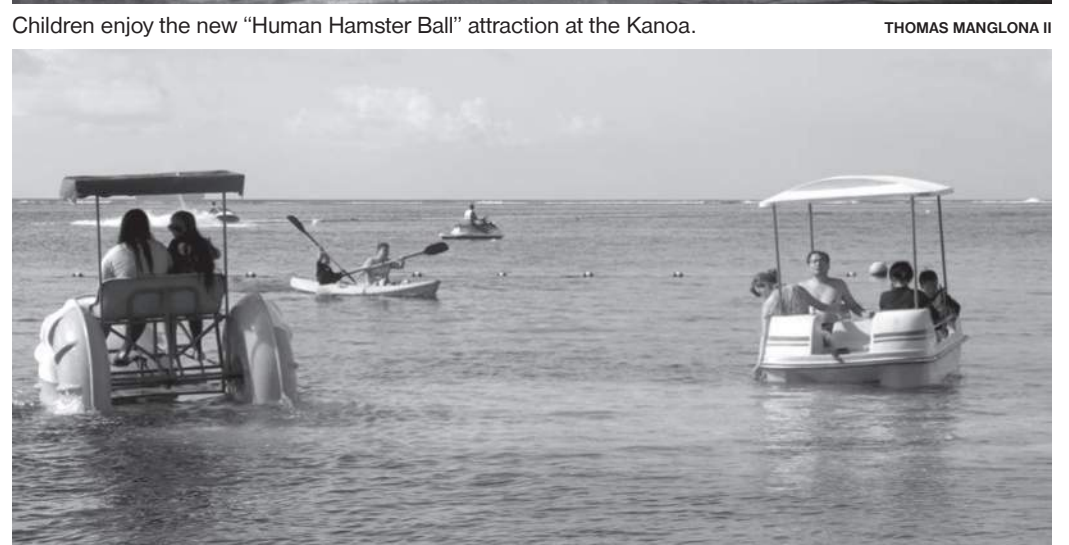
Children enjoy the new "Human Hamster Ball" attraction at the Kanoa.

THOMAS MANGLONA II



A mother and her daughter prepare to go kayaking at the Kanoa.

THOMAS MANGLONA II



Kanoa staff's children enjoy the hotel's new "water toys."

THOMAS MANGLONA II



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
FOR  
SUPPLY OF VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES**

**RFP-GOV14-030**

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Jude S. Hofschneider are soliciting proposals in compliance with NMIAC § 70-30.3-210 (Competitive Sealed Proposals) for the provision of video lottery terminals and associated services. The Commonwealth is seeking a qualified supplier to provide up to one thousand (1,000) video lottery terminals that comply with identified specifications and associated gaming software and services to establish and maintain video lottery gaming operations on the Island of Saipan for a twenty-year period.

The Request for Proposals ("RFP") will be available on December 16, 2013 from the Office of Capital Improvement, Juan Sablan Memorial Building – Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 (670-664-2375). Submittals must follow the format identified in the RFP and comply with all requirements. Qualifications will be evaluated based on the factors as identified in the table below.

Element	Possible Points
I. Resources of proposer	30 points
a. Financial capacity (10 points)	
b. Gaming experience (10 points)	
c. Entity resources (10 points)	
II. Suggested Approach to Commonwealth Gaming	60 points
a. Understanding of market (10 points)	
b. Proposed approach (10 points)	
c. Proposed video lottery terminals (10 points)	
d. Proposed games (10 points)	
e. Preventative maintenance and upgrades (10 points)	
f. Total Costs (10 points)	
III. Required Revenue (10 points)	10 points

Award shall be made to the firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. All questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 7, 2013 (ChST) to Mr. James Stump at the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670-664-2408).

All proposals must be sealed and marked "RFP-GOV14-030 Supply of Video Lottery Terminals and Associated Services" and in compliance with the request for proposal structure and include an original and six (6) copies and submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, January 31, 2014 (ChST) to:

Herman S. Sablan, Director  
Marianas Procurement & Supply - Lower Base  
P.O. Box 510008 CK  
Saipan, MP 96950

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all submittals. Proposer bears all risk concerning delivery. For further information contact the Office of Capital Improvement 670-664-2375.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
FOR  
VIDEO LOTTERY GAMING SITE AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES**

**RFP-GOV14-037**

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Jude S. Hofschneider are soliciting proposals in compliance with NMIAC § 70-30.3-210 (Competitive Sealed Proposals) for the provision of video lottery gaming site and services. The services requested will be to provide a site for the conduct of video lottery gaming and associated services on the Island of Saipan.

The Request for Proposals ("RFP") will be available on December 16, 2013 from the Office of Capital Improvement, Juan Sablan Memorial Building – Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 (670-664-2375). Submittals must follow the format identified in the RFP and comply with all requirements. Qualifications will be evaluated based on the factors as identified in the table below.

	Element	Points
1	Financial capacity of proposer	20
2	Gaming experience	20
3	Proposed gaming area	30
4	Business Plan	30
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Award shall be made to the firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. All questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 7, 2014 (ChST) to James R. Stump at the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670-664-2408).

All proposals must be sealed and marked "RFP-GOV-037 Video Lottery Gaming Site Proposal" and in compliance with the request for proposal structure and include an original and four copies and submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, January 31, 2014 (ChST) to:

Herman S. Sablan, Director  
Marianas Procurement & Supply - Lower Base  
P.O. Box 510008 CK  
Saipan, MP 96950

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all submittals and bear all risk concerning delivery. For further information contact the Office of Capital Improvement 670-664-2375. All proposals become the property of the Commonwealth.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
FOR SUPPLY OF VIDEO LOTTERY CENTRAL CONTROL SYSTEM  
AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES  
RFP-GOV14-038**

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Jude S. Hofschneider are soliciting proposals in compliance with NMIAC § 70-30.3-210 (Competitive Sealed Proposals) for the provision of video lottery central control system and associated services. The Commonwealth is seeking a qualified supplier to provide a system for monitoring and control of a proposed video lottery gaming operation up that complies with identified specifications to facilitate establishment of a video lottery gaming operations on the Island of Saipan for a twenty-year period.

The Request for Proposals ("RFP") will be available on December 16, 2013 from the Office of Capital Improvement, Juan Sablan Memorial Building – Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 (670-664-2375). Submittals must follow the format identified in the RFP and comply with all requirements. Qualifications will be evaluated based on the factors as identified in the table below.

Element	Possible Points
I. Resources of proposer	25 points
a. Financial resources (15 points)	
b. Gaming experience (15 points)	
c. Entity resources (10 points)	
II. Proposed Commonwealth Central Control	25 points
a. Proposed hardware (10 points)	
b. Proposed software (20 points)	
c. Monitoring and Reporting capacity	
d. Security, Testing, and flexibility	
III. Cost Projections	25 points
IV. Revenue Requirements	25 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 points</b>

Award shall be made to the firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. All questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 7, 2014 (ChST) to James R. Stump at the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670-664-2408).

All proposals must be sealed and marked "RFP14-GOV-038 Supply of Video Lottery Central Control System and Associated Services" and in compliance with the request for proposal structure and include an original and six (6) copies and submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, Januart 31, 2014 (ChST) to:

Herman S. Sablan, Director  
Marianas Procurement & Supply - Lower Base  
P.O. Box 510008 CK  
Saipan, MP 96950

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all submittals. Proposer bears all risk concerning delivery. For further information contact the Office of Capital Improvement 670-664-2375.



**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM- OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
TRUCKS WITH DUMP BODIES  
RFP14-GOV-042**

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude Hofschneider, are soliciting competitive sealed proposals according to the requirements of N.M.I.A.C. § 70-30.3-210 from qualified vendors to provide dump trucks for use on the Islands of Tinian and Rota. Proposals are to include costs associated with: equipment; training; and delivery to the Islands of Tinian and Rota as identified in the specifications. Trucks proposed must be similar to type identified in the scope of work. The Commonwealth is relying on the expertise of vendors in the selection of most appropriate equipment for use in the proposed operations. The specific pieces of equipment sought are two medium duty dump trucks with a 5-7 cu yard medium duty dump body & hoist.Although equipment is to be used primarily in hauling landfill cover, they will also be used in assorted activities of municipal operations, thus the Commonwealth is seeking flexibility in the type of equipment. Submitted proposals will be evaluated on a possible 100 points based on the following factors:

Element	Points
Price and appropriateness of proposed equipment;	50 points
Dealer experience and ability to meet needs of the Islands of Tinian and Rota.	50 points

All proposers will be subject to a responsibility determination as identified in NMIAC § 70-30.3-245 ("Responsibility Determination") which will evaluate whether the vendor has experience and resources for the required financing, delivery, and warranty. Proposals from parties who fail to meet the requirements of the Responsibility Determination will not be considered. Award shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

Proposals should address each item identified in the evaluation structure and must follow the proposal structure as identified in the proposal packet that can be obtained from the Office of Procurement & Supply. Proposal packets will be available on January 6, 2014(ChST) at Office of Capital Improvement - Juan Sablan Memorial Building - Capitol Hill (670-664-2375). Proposals must pay particular attention to the preferred identified equipment specification and use this as a guide in submission of proposals. All questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 17, 2014 (ChST) to the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670-664-2408). Prospective bidders bear responsibility for proper transmission and receipt of submitted questions.

The selected vendor will be required to comply with all applicable Commonwealth and Federal laws. All proposals must be in a sealed envelope or container and marked "RFP14-GOV-042Dump Truck Proposal" on the exterior and include an original and four copies. Proposals must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday February 7, 2014 (ChST) to:

Herman S. Sablan, Director  
Marianas Procurement & Supply - Lower Base  
P.O. Box 510008 CK  
Saipan, MP 96950

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. Proposers bear all risk concerning delivery. For further information contact Carl Castro at the Office of Capital Improvement (670) 664-2375. All proposals become the property of the Commonwealth.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos  
Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan  
Director, Procurement & Supply



# Business

## USDA makes changes to Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has implemented a series of sweeping changes to a popular loan program for rural homebuyers. The changes are part of an extensive overhaul that will strengthen rural housing markets, increase the availability of rural home loans and spur the construction of new homes in rural areas.

"These improvements will help create jobs and enable more people to participate in the rural home loan guarantee program," USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack said. "The changes will add significant capital to rural areas and give rural Americans more opportunities to make financing decisions that lay the groundwork for the future prosperity of their families."

The changes take effect Sept. 1, 2014, and make several improvements to USDA Rural Development's Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program. Among other things, they expand the types of lenders who are eligible to participate. With the rule change, any lending entity supervised and regulated by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the National Credit Union Administration, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Reserve Banks, or the Federal Housing Finance Board may underwrite loans guaranteed by Rural De-

velopment. This will enable many small community banks and credit unions to participate in the guaranteed loan program. Currently, these entities are not eligible lenders.

In another policy change, for the first time, borrowers will be able to choose home loan terms shorter than 30 years. This will result in a significant cost savings for borrowers who qualify for the higher payments and who want to pay off their loan faster and pay less interest on their loan.

Collectively, these changes will make housing loans more readily available to residents in underserved communities, such as those targeted by USDA's StrikeForce initiative. Through StrikeForce, USDA staff work with state, local and community officials to increase awareness of USDA programs that help rural residents, businesses and communities.

As part of the overhaul, Rural Development has begun a series of enhancements to automate processes, reduce paperwork and reduce loan approval times.

Additional program improvements are:

- Lenders may consider a home's energy efficiency as a compensating factor when underwriting a mortgage application. Energy efficiency is an

attractive feature for homebuyers and sellers. Energy efficient homes help the nation lessen its dependence on foreign oil and result in lower utility costs for homeowners. Lower utility costs also improve the local economy by directly increasing consumers' disposable income.

- Lenders and borrowers no longer will be required to initiate separate construction and permanent loans for new homes. Instead, there will be one closing for one loan, known as a construction-to-permanent loan.

- Lenders will be required to consider foreclosure prevention techniques such as loan modifications and short sales. Currently, lenders are "encouraged" but not required to do so.

These changes will be fully outlined in a new handbook to accompany program regulations. The handbook will provide a single reference point on program rules for borrowers and lenders. It will replace more than 20 administrative notices that are written separately and must be updated annually.

For additional details, see page 73927 of the Dec. 9 *Federal Register*. USDA welcomes public comment on the changes. The deadline to submit comments is Jan. 8, 2014. See Page 73927 for information on how to submit comments. (USDA)

## USDA grants to help small businesses innovate

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced more than \$18 million in grants to small businesses to conduct research and development that will lead to technological innovations in the agriculture industry. The awards were made by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

"USDA grants to small businesses have spurred the development of hundreds of technologies and products that help make American agriculture successful," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "[This] is another example of USDA's focus on science and research that can strengthen the economy and create jobs across the nation. Inno-

vative agricultural research has helped make agriculture one of the two most productive industries in the U.S. economy since 1980, but we need a new Food, Farm and Jobs Bill passed if we are to sustain it."

USDA made the grants through the Small Business Innovation Research program, with the goal to stimulate technological innovations in the private sector and to strengthen the role of small businesses in meeting federal research and development needs. The program also fosters and encourages participation by women-owned and socially- or economically-disadvantaged small business firms.

Companies initially apply for

Phase I feasibility studies, which may be followed by Phase II research and development projects. Phase I grants are limited to \$100,000 and a duration of eight months, while Phase II grants are limited to \$450,000 and a duration of 24 months. Approximately 50 percent of Phase I projects continue onto Phase II.

In fiscal year 2013, USDA awarded \$5,862,650 in Phase I grants and \$12,417,504 in Phase II grants.

Since 1983, the USDA SBIR program has awarded more than 2,000 research and development grants to American-owned, independently operated, for-profit businesses with 500 employees or fewer. (USDA)

new markets and technology. He was promoted to vice president, Card Services Division in 2009 and senior vice president and division manager in 2011 where he was responsible for directing the marketing and operations of the bank's credit and debit card programs. Prior to joining the bank, he was a business development manager with Mid Pac Petroleum.

First Hawaiian Bank (FHB.com), with \$16.7 billion in assets, was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. It has 57 branches in Hawaii, three in Guam and two on Saipan. (FHB)

## Chris Dods named FHB SVP, division chief

HAGATNA, Guam—Chris Dods, a senior vice president in First Hawaiian Bank's Card Services Division, became senior vice president and Marketing Communications Division manager effective Jan. 2, 2014, according to an announcement by Bob Harrison, president and chief executive officer, First Hawaiian Bank.

Dods replaces Brandt Farias, executive vice president and division manager, who retired on Nov. 1, 2013, after 28 years at the bank.

"We are pleased to have someone with Dods' proven leader-



Dods

ship to oversee our Marketing Communications Division," said Harrison. "He brings with him an extensive background and breadth of experience in bank marketing and business development."

Dods has over 16 years of experience in financial and business development management and joined First Hawaiian Bank in 2007 as an assistant vice president, business development

# Nation

## Historic freeze may break records



Nick warms himself on a steam grate with three other homeless men by the Federal Trade Commission, just blocks from the Capitol, during frigid temperatures in Washington, Saturday, Jan. 4, 2014.

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP)—The deep freeze expected soon in the Midwest, New England and even the South will be one to remember, with potential record-low temperatures heightening fears of frostbite and hypothermia.

It hasn't been this cold for decades—20 years in Washington, D.C., 18 years in Milwaukee, 15 in Missouri—even in the Midwest, where bundling up is second nature. Weather Bell meteorologist Ryan Maue said, "If you're under 40 (years old), you've not seen this stuff before."

Preceded by snow in much of the Midwest, the frigid air will begin Sunday and extend into early next week, funneled as far south as the Gulf Coast. Blame it on a "polar vortex," as one meteorologist calls it, a counterclockwise-rotating pool of cold, dense air.

"It's just a large area of very cold air that comes down, forms over the North Pole or polar regions ... usually stays in Canada, but this time it's going to come all the way into the eastern United States," said National Weather Service meteorologist Phillip Schumacher in Sioux Falls, S.D.

The predictions are startling: 25 below zero in Fargo, N.D., minus 31 in International Falls, Minn., and 15 below in Indianapolis and Chicago. At those temperatures, exposed skin can get frostbitten in minutes and hypothermia can quickly set in

as wind chills may reach 50, 60 or even 70 below zero.

Even wind chills of 25 below zero can do serious damage, according to National Weather Service meteorologist Scott Truett in St. Louis.

"A person not properly dressed could die easily in those conditions," he said of the expected wind chill in Missouri at

daybreak Monday.

Already, parts of New England dropped into the negatives Saturday, with East Brighton, Vt., seeing 30 below zero just after midnight and Allagash, Maine, hitting minus 36. The cold will sweep through other parts of New England where residents are digging out from a snowstorm.

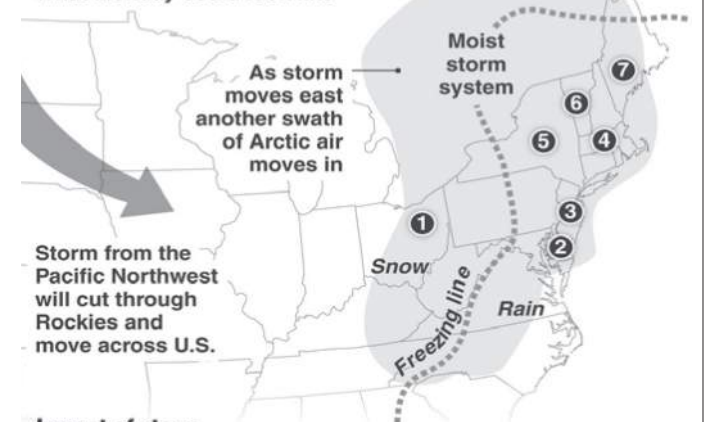
## Fierce winter storm

The first big winter storm of the year has impacted more than 100 million people in the Midwest and Northeast.

### A repeat storm

Temperatures in the Northeast are expected to rise above freezing over the weekend, before the arrival of another storm

### What Monday could look like



### Impact of storm

- 1 Ohio Cleveland wind chill dipped to minus 20 F
- 2 Del. Nearly 2,500 without power; winds up to 35 mph
- 3 N.J. State of emergency declared; up to 10 in. of snow; school and government offices closed
- 4 Mass. Up to 2 ft. of snow in some areas; wind chill reaching minus 10 F
- 5 N.Y. State of emergency declared; 45 mph wind and up to 10 in. of snow on Long Island; New York City schools closed; one death
- 6 Vermont Forecast high for Friday is minus 6 F
- 7 Maine Freezing spray advisory on coast; fishing boats could accumulate nearly an inch of ice per hour

Source: weather.com, Weather Underground, AP Graphic: Melina Yingling

© 2014 MCT

## Small plane makes emergency landing on NYC highway

NEW YORK (AP)—A small plane traveling to Connecticut after taking a tour of the Statue of Liberty made an emergency landing Saturday on a New York City interstate highway, startling drivers but touching down safely with no serious injuries to anyone aboard or on the ground, officials said.

The aircraft, a Piper PA-28, set down at around 3:20 p.m. on the northbound side of the Major Deegan Expressway in the Bronx, in an area where the highway passes through Van

Cortlandt Park.

The Federal Aviation Administration said three people were on board. Police and fire officials said neither the male pilot nor two female passengers appeared to have been badly hurt. All were taken to a Bronx hospital for non-life-threatening injuries, said Mayor Bill de Blasio.

De Blasio told reporters the plane had departed from Danbury Municipal Airport and was making the return trip when it experienced engine problems.

"We have...extraordinary situ-

ation and actually a bit of a miracle, thank God, that happened today in our city," he said, calling the successful highway landing, without any serious injuries or deaths, "amazing."

"I thought I'd seen everything in my life," he said.

The FAA said damage to the aircraft was minor. Photos taken by bystanders showed blue and white plane largely intact, but resting on its belly by the snowy edge of the road. The plane's landing gear appeared in the photos to have collapsed.



# Asia

## Violence mars Bangladesh elections

**DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)**—Many Bangladeshis stayed away from polling stations in Sunday's general elections, marred by an opposition boycott and relentless violence that threatens to deepen the crisis in the South Asian nation.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's refusal to heed opposition demands to step down and appoint a neutral caretaker to oversee the election led to the boycott, undermining the legitimacy of the vote. Opposition activists responded with attacks, strikes and transportation blockades in unrest that killed at least 275 people in 2013.

"We never expected such an election. For such a situation both the government and opposition are responsible. They don't

want to establish democracy," said Aminul Islam, a Dhaka resident who refused to vote.

Police opened fire to stop protesters from seizing a polling center in northern Rangpur district, killing two people. In a similar incident in neighboring Nilphamari district, police fired into about two dozens of protesters, leaving one person dead.

Police gave no further details, but Dhaka's Daily Star newspaper said the three men belonged to the opposition Jamaat-e-Islami party.

Elsewhere, police said suspected opposition activists stabbed to death a polling official, and local media reported that attackers torched more than 127 school buildings across the country in overnight attacks.

The buildings were to be used as polling stations.

The voting began at 8 a.m. but local television stations showed mostly empty polling stations, still wrapped in early morning winter fog.

By midmorning, polling was suspended in at least 120 centers because of attacks, burning of ballots and election materials, an election official said on condition of anonymity as he was not allowed to speak to reporters.

At a polling station in Dhaka's Mirpur district, only 25 out of 24,000 registered voters cast their ballot in the first two hours, with polling officials saying fear of violence and absence of any strong opposition kept people away.

## Rescuers dig for India building collapse survivors



Rescue workers carry the body of a victim amid the debris of a building that collapsed in Canacona, a city about 70 kilometers (44 miles) from Goa state capital Panaji, India, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014.

**PANAJI, India (AP)**—Rescuers using backhoes and shovels searched for survivors Sunday under a massive pile of broken concrete and dust left when a residential building collapsed under construction in southern India, killing at least 14 workers.

Authorities suspected dozens more may be trapped under the rubble, but were still trying to determine how many workers were on site when the five-story structure crumpled Saturday afternoon in the state of Goa. Witnesses reported seeing at least 40 laborers.

Soldiers and firefighters listened for movement or cries from the wreckage as they

worked overnight to clear the debris, state official Venancio Furtado said.

At least 10 people were pulled out alive overnight, but the chance of finding survivors was dwindling, Furtado said. By Sunday morning the death toll had reached 14.

Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar pledged to crack down on those responsible. Police began investigating both the building company and city officials who approved the building's construction on a patch of marshland in Canacona, about 70 kilometers (44 miles) from the state capital of Panaji.

Police said they have so far

been unable to track down the construction company managers.

Many of the workers had come from other, poorer states including Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in search of jobs in India's thriving construction business. One worker who was not at the scene when the building collapsed said he earned about 300 rupees (\$4.80) for a day's work, according to Press Trust of India.

Building collapses are common in India, however, as massive demand for housing and lax regulations often encourage builders to cut corners by using substandard materials or add unauthorized extra floors.

latory price for this year's bid went back to being reasonable," said Kimura, whose Kiyomura Co. operates the popular Sushi-Zanmai restaurant chain.

Environmentalists say growing worldwide consumption of bluefin tuna is leading to its depletion, and that those in charge of managing fisheries for the species are failing to take responsible action to protect it.

## Priciest tuna cost down despite shrinking stocks

**TOKYO (AP)**—Sushi restaurateur Kiyoshi Kimura paid 7.36 million yen (about \$70,000) for a 507 pound (230 kilogram) bluefin tuna in the year's celebratory first auction at Tokyo's Tsukiji market on Sunday, just one-twentieth of what he paid a year earlier despite signs the species is in serious decline.

Kimura's record winning bid

last year of 154.4 million yen for a 222 kilogram fish drew complaints that prices had soared way out of line, even for an auction that has always drawn high bids. Kimura also set the previous record of 56.4 million yen at the 2012 new year's auction. The high prices don't necessarily reflect exceptionally high fish quality.

"I'm glad that the congratu-

# World

## Iraq city falls to al-Qaida group

**BAGHDAD (AP)**—The city center of Iraq's Fallujah has fallen completely into the hands of fighters from the al-Qaida-linked Islamic State in Iraq and Levant, police said Saturday, yet another victory for the hardline group that has made waves across the region in recent days.

ISIL is also one of the strongest rebel units in Syria, where it has imposed a strict version of Islamic law in territories it holds and kidnapped and killed anyone it deems critical of its rule. Also on Saturday, it claimed responsibility for a suicide car bombing in a Shiite-dominated neighborhood in Lebanon.

Hadi Razeij, head of the Anbar province police force, said police had left the city center entirely and had positioned themselves on the edge of town.

"The walls of the city are in the hands of the police force, but the people of Fallujah are the prisoners of ISIL," he said, speaking on Arabic language satellite broadcaster al-Arabiya.

Fallujah, along with the capital of Anbar province, Ramadi, was a stronghold of Sunni insurgents during the U.S.-led war. Al-Qaida militants largely took both cities over last week and have been fending off incursions by government forces there since.

In a speech in Baghdad, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said government forces would press on to clear the



Mourners and Sunni gunmen chant slogans against Iraq's Shiite-led government during the funeral of a man killed when clashes erupted between al-Qaida gunmen and Iraqi army soldiers on Friday, his family said, in Fallujah, 40 miles (65 kilometers) west of Baghdad, Iraq, Saturday, Jan. 4, 2014.

province of militants.

"There will be no retreat until we eliminate this gang and rid the people of Anbar of their evil acts," he said. "The people of Anbar asked the government for help, they called us to come to rescue them from terrorists."

Dozens of families were fleeing Fallujah, sheltering in schools in nearby towns, provincial official Dari al-Rishawi told The Associated Press. It appeared there was a shortage of fuel inside the city and that and food prices had doubled because supplies could no longer enter.

Hundreds of ISIL fighters were in the city, he added, mostly armed with heavy mounted machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars. On Saturday, Sunni tribesmen seeking to push out ISIL had yet to enter the city.

The U.S. State Department expressed its concern in a statement, saying it would continue to work with Iraqi authorities and tribes allied against ISIL "to defeat our common enemy."

"We are also in contact with tribal leaders from Anbar province who are showing great courage as they fight to eject these terrorist groups from their cities," Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf said.

Government troops, backed by Sunni tribesmen who oppose al-Qaida, have encircled Fallujah for several days, and have entered parts of Ramadi. On Friday, troops bombarded militant positions outside Fallujah with artillery, a military official said, speaking on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to release information.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Al-Qaida group says responsible for Beirut bombing

**BEIRUT (AP)**—An al-Qaida linked group claimed responsibility on Saturday for a suicide car bombing last week in a Shiite-dominated neighborhood in Lebanon, as its fighters fought other rebels in neighboring Syria in the most serious infighting since the uprising began. It was the first time at the al-Qaida linked Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant claimed responsibility for an attack in Lebanon, underscoring how the ever more complex Syrian war is increasingly spilling over into its smaller neighbor. At least five people were killed in the Thursday attack that targeted a south Beirut neighborhood that is bastion of support for the Shiite group Hezbollah.

#### Ecuador navy airlifts Jeff Bezos for kidney stone

**QUITO, Ecuador (AP)**—Amazon founder Jeff Bezos

was flown by helicopter from a cruise ship in the Galapagos Islands for medical attention after suffering intense pain because of a kidney stone on Jan. 1, authorities said Saturday. Capt. Santiago Rubio, commander of the port of Santa Cruz in the Galapagos, told The Associated Press that Bezos was on a ship not far from the island when he felt the pains in his stomach area. Ecuador's navy sent doctors to examine Bezos and when they determined that it was a kidney stone attack, Rubio said he authorized a helicopter to take the Amazon founder and Washington Post owner from the ship on New Year's Day. The captain said Bezos was taken to Santa Cruz port and from there a short flight to Baltra island where his private jet was waiting to take him to the U.S. for treatment.

#### US icebreaker to rescue 2 ships in Antarctica

**CANBERRA, Australia (AP)**—A U.S. Coast Guard heavy icebreaker left Australia for

Antarctica on Sunday to rescue more than 120 crew members aboard two icebreakers trapped in pack ice near the frozen continent's eastern edge, officials said. The 122-meter (399-foot) cutter, the Polar Star, is responding to a Jan. 3 request from Australia, Russia and China to assist the Russian and Chinese ships because "there is sufficient concern that the vessels may not be able to free themselves from the ice," the Coast Guard said in a statement. The Russian research ship Akademik Shokalskiy has been trapped in ice-clogged Commonwealth Bay since Christmas Eve, while the Chinese ship which came to its rescue, Xue Long or Snow Dragon in Chinese, reported on Friday it too had become stuck nearby. A day earlier, the Chinese ship's helicopter had retrieved from the Russian ship 52 scientists, journalists and tourists who are now on their way home aboard an Australian icebreaker, Aurora Australis.



## Focus

**WASHINGTON** (A P) — Ask Americans to imagine life in 2050, and you'll get some dreary visions. Whether they foresee runaway technology or runaway government, rampant poverty or vanishing morality, a majority of Americans predict a future worse than today.

Whites are particularly gloomy: Only 1 in 6 expects better times over the next four decades. Also notably pessimistic are middle-age and older people, those who earn mid-level incomes and Protestants, a new national poll finds.

"I really worry about my grandchildren, I do," says 74-year-old Penny Trusty of Rockville, Maryland, a retired software designer and grandmother of five. "I worry about the lowering of morals and the corruption and the confusion that's just raining down on them."

Even groups with comparatively sunny outlooks—racial and ethnic minorities, the young and the nonreligious—are much more likely to say things will be the same or get worse than to predict a brighter future.

"Changes will come, and some of them are scary," says Kelly Miller, 22, a freshly minted University of Minnesota sports management grad.

She looks forward to some wonderful things, like 3D printers creating organs for transplant patients. But Miller envisions Americans in 2050 blindly relying on robots and technology for everything from cooking dinner to managing their money.

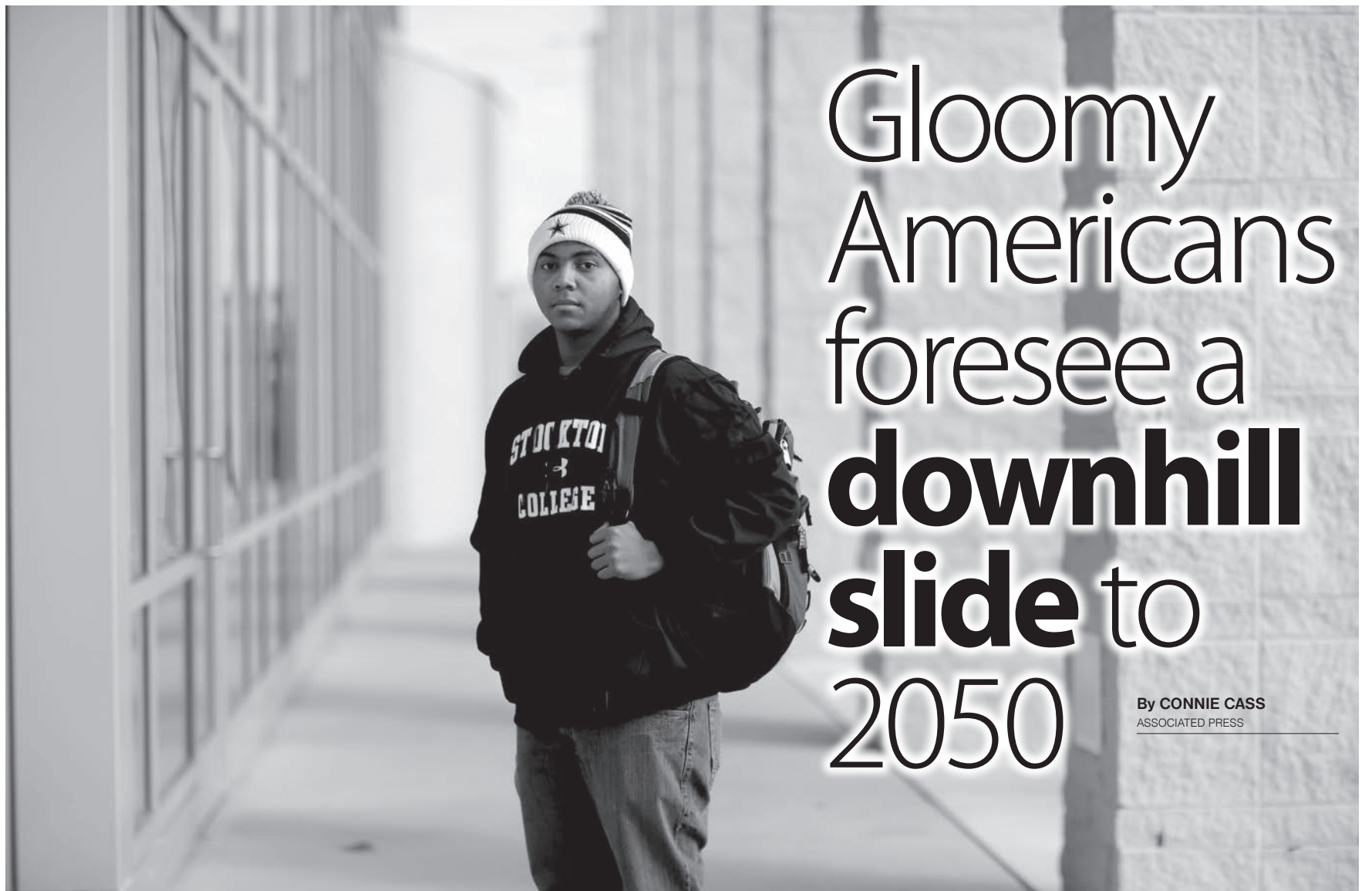
"It's taking away our free choice and human thought," she says. "And there's potential for government to control and regulate what this artificial intelligence thinks."

Overall, 54 percent of those surveyed expect American life to go downhill, while 23 percent think it will improve, according to a December survey from the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Only 21 percent predict life will stay about the same. That minority may be onto something, however.

While no one can say what catastrophes or human triumphs are to come, contentment at a personal level has proven remarkably stable over the past four decades.

Interviews by the federally funded General Social Survey, one of the nation's longest-running surveys of social trends, show Americans' overall happiness as well as satisfaction with their jobs and marriages barely fluctuating since 1972. Those decades spanned the sex-



# Gloomy Americans foresee a downhill slide to 2050

By **CONNIE CASS**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Political science student La'Shon Callaway, 19, of Egg Harbor Township, N.J., poses for a photograph as he stands on the campus of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, in Galloway, N.J., Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2013. Callaway is optimistic that racial discrimination will continue to decline over his lifetime. "People are getting tired of it, and fed up," said Callaway. "They're realizing even if you're not the same color as me, you're still a person and I'm still a person." Ask people to imagine American life in 2050, and you'll get some dreary visions. Whether they foresee runaway technology or runaway government, rampant poverty or vanishing morality, a majority of Americans predict a future worse than today.

ual revolution and the women's rights movement, race riots and civil rights advances, wars from Vietnam through Afghanistan, the birth of the home computer and the smartphone, boom times and hard times.

Despite the recent shift toward negativity, the portion of U.S. residents rating themselves very or pretty happy stayed around 9 out of 10.

"Most people evaluate their lives very stably from year to year," said Tom W. Smith, the director since 1980 of the GSS, conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago.

The GSS, conducted once every two years, will send interviewers back into the field in 2014. The AP-NORC Center survey asked people to rate the change in American life during the period tracked by the GSS, from 1972 to 2012.

A majority—54 percent—say life in America is worse today than four decades ago.

Those old enough to remember the early '70s are especially nostalgic. Those who say U.S. life has declined are more apt to name politics, the economy, moral values or changes in families as the biggest difference.

The 3 in 10 who think life is better are more likely to point to computers and technology as the big change. Racial and ethnic minorities are apt to cite domestic issues, including

civil rights.

## EQUALITY

Some of the opinions voiced in the 1972 survey are rarely uttered today.

Back then, nearly 4 in 10 nonblacks agreed with the idea that whites had the right to keep blacks "out of their neighborhoods." A quarter of nonblacks said they wouldn't vote for a black man for president, and 26 percent of all adults wouldn't back a well-qualified woman.

Now the president of the United States is black and a

woman is the most-discussed presidential prospect for 2016. The GSS dropped those three questions in the 1990s.

## LOVE AND FAMILY

In 1972, the sexual revolution was ablaze. That year the Supreme Court ruled that unmarried couples had a right to birth control.

Still, a third of Americans back then disapproved of a woman working if she had a husband to support her. The GSS no longer bothers asking that one.

Americans today are more worried about divorce and the increasing number of never-married moms. Nearly 4 out of 10 women who gave birth in 2011 were unmarried, according to the census.

Despite the social turmoil, 98 percent of married people today say their union is happy, including two-thirds who are "very happy." And marital fidelity remains an ideal endorsed by nearly all Americans.

The political debate over abortion shows no signs of being resolved, more than 40 years

after Roe vs. Wade. Young people today are somewhat more conservative on the issue than middle-aged Americans.

Gay marriage, on the other hand, appears headed toward future acceptance. Young people are solidly in favor, while opposition is strongest among the oldest Americans.

## MONEY

Recession, a stock market crash, runaway inflation and an oil crisis marred the U.S. economy in the early 1970s. Forty years later, those look like the good times to many.

Before the Great Recession hit in 2007, most people consistently said their family finances were getting better instead of worse. That's not the case anymore. Americans are more likely to consider themselves "lower class" than ever in GSS history—8 percent say that.

Whites are especially pessimistic about their prospects. Black and Hispanic optimism surged after Barack Obama became the first black president in 2008.

Yet overall, about half of Americans still believe their children will have a better standard of living than they do.

"They're going to have to deal with a lot," Bill Hardy, a 67-year-old investment adviser, said of his grown children and three grandkids. "They'll deal with it. Kids today are very smart."



Penny Trusty, 74, a retired software designer and grandmother of five, poses with photographs of her grandchildren in her home in Rockville, Md., Thursday, Dec. 26, 2013.



# Health & Fitness

## Historic smoking report marks 50th anniversary

By **MIKE STOBBE**  
AP MEDICAL WRITER

**ATLANTA (AP)**—Fifty years ago, ashtrays seemed to be on every table and desk. Athletes and even Fred Flintstone endorsed cigarettes in TV commercials. Smoke hung in the air in restaurants, offices and airplane cabins. More than 42 percent of U.S. adults smoked, and there was a good chance your doctor was among them.

The turning point came on Jan. 11, 1964. It was on that Saturday morning that U.S. Surgeon General Luther Terry released an emphatic and authoritative report that said smoking causes illness and death—and the government should do something about it.

In the decades that followed, warning labels were put on cigarette packs, cigarette commercials were banned, taxes were raised and new restrictions were placed on where people could light up.

"It was the beginning," said Kenneth Warner, a University of Michigan public health professor who is a leading authority on smoking and health.

It was not the end. While the U.S. smoking rate has fallen by more than half to 18 percent, that still translates to more than 43 million smokers. Smoking is still far and away the leading preventable cause of death in the U.S. Some experts predict large numbers of Americans will puff away for decades to come.

Nevertheless, the Terry report has been called one of the most important documents in U.S. public health history, and on its 50th anniversary, officials are not only rolling out new anti-smoking campaigns but reflecting on what the nation did right that day.

The report's bottom-line message was hardly revolutionary. Since 1950, head-turning studies that found higher rates of lung cancer in heavy smokers had been appearing in medical journals. A widely read article in Reader's Digest in 1952, "Cancer by the Carton," contributed to the largest drop in cigarette consumption since the Depression. In 1954, the American Cancer Society announced that smokers had a higher cancer risk.

But the tobacco industry fought back. Manufacturers came out with cigarettes with filters that they claimed would trap toxins before they settled into smokers' lungs. And in 1954, they placed a full-page ad in hundreds of newspapers in which they argued that research linking their products and cancer was inconclusive.

It was a brilliant counter-of-



This Monday, Oct. 13, 1997 file photo shows a cigarette vending machine in a bar in Montpelier, Vt.

AP

fensive that left physicians and the public unsure how dangerous smoking really was. Cigarette sales rebounded.

In 1957 and 1959, Surgeon General Leroy Burney issued statements that heavy smoking causes lung cancer. But they had little impact.

Amid pressure from health advocates, President John F. Kennedy's surgeon general, Dr. Luther Terry, announced in 1962 that he was convening an expert panel to examine all the evidence and issue a comprehensive, debate-settling report. To ensure the panel was unimpeachable, he let the tobacco industry veto any proposed members it regarded as biased.

Surveys indicated a third to a half of all physicians smoked tobacco products at the time, and the committee reflected the culture: Half its 10 members were smokers, who puffed away during committee meetings. Terry himself was a cigarette smoker.

Dr. Eugene Guthrie, an assistant surgeon general, helped persuade Terry to kick the habit a few months before the press conference releasing the report.

"I told him, 'You gotta quit that. I think you can get away with a pipe—if you don't do it openly.' He said, 'You gotta be kidding!' I said, 'No, I'm not. It just wouldn't do. If you smoke any cigarettes, you better do it in a closet,'" Guthrie recalled in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

The press conference was held on a Saturday partly out of concern about its effect on the stock market. About 200 reporters attended.

The committee said cigarette smoking clearly did cause lung

cancer and was responsible for the nation's escalating male cancer death rate. It also said there was no valid evidence filters were reducing the danger. The committee also said—more vaguely—that the government should address the problem.

"This was front-page news, and every American knew it," said Robin Koval, president of Legacy, an anti-smoking organization.

Cigarette consumption dropped a whopping 15 percent over the next three months but then began to rebound. Health officials realized it would take more than one report.

In 1965, Congress required cigarette packs to carry warning labels. Two years later, the Federal Communications Commission ordered TV and radio stations to provide free air time for anti-smoking public service announcements. Cigarette commercials were banned in 1971.

Still, progress was slow. Warner recalled teaching at the University of Michigan in 1972, when nearly half the faculty members at the school of public health were smokers. He was one of them.

"I felt like a hypocrite and an idiot," he said. But smoking was still the norm, and it was difficult to quit, he said.

The 1970s also saw the birth of a movement to protect non-smokers from cigarette fumes, with no-smoking sections on airplanes, in restaurants and in other places. Those eventually gave way to complete smoking bans. Cigarette machines disappeared, cigarette taxes rose, and restrictions on the sale of cigarettes to minors got tougher.

Tobacco companies also

came under increasing legal attack. In the biggest case of them all, more than 40 states brought lawsuits demanding compensation for the costs of treating smoking-related illnesses.

Big Tobacco settled in 1998 by agreeing to pay about \$200 billion and curtail marketing of cigarettes to youths.

In 1998, while the settlement was being completed, tobacco

executives appeared before Congress and publicly acknowledged for the first time that their products can cause lung cancer and be addictive.

Experts agree that the Terry report clearly triggered decades of changes that whittled the smoking rate down. But it was based on data that was already out there. Why, then, did it make such a difference?

For one thing, the drumbeat about the dangers of smoking was getting louder in 1964, experts said. But the way the committee was assembled and the carefully neutral manner in which it reached its conclusion were at least as important, said Dr. Tim McAfee, director of the Office on Smoking and Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

At the same time, he and others said any celebration of the anniversary must be tempered by the size of the problem that still exists.

Each year, an estimated 443,000 people die prematurely from smoking or exposure to secondhand smoke, and 8.6 million live with a serious illness caused by smoking, according to the CDC.

### Personal Trainer

## Wrong injury diagnosis

These serious injuries, common in sports, are the ones that are most often overlooked or misdiagnosed by trainers and physicians.

#### Concussion

Blow to the head that causes unconsciousness or changes in perception or awareness

Person should be examined by a physician

#### Achilles tendon rupture

Usually makes popping sound; partial rupture may cause little pain, be mistaken for sprain

#### Femoral neck stress fracture

Usually caused by intense running; vague groin or thigh pain is often misdiagnosed as strain or tendinitis

#### Anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury

Often misdiagnosed as sprain or collateral ligament knee strain

#### Scaphoid fracture

Falling onto hands breaks small bone in wrist; often diagnosed as sprain

Source: Exercise physiologist Elizabeth Quinn

Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

© 2014 MCT



## Single woman is losing touch with friends who have kids

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm a 28-year-old woman with a fantastic job, a wonderful boyfriend and many friends whom I love dearly. I'm the only one without a child.

Maybe I don't understand because I'm not a parent myself, but all my friends can talk about is children. Whereas before, we were interested in each other's lives, I feel like my concerns and accomplishments are being brushed off. An example: I was excited to meet up with a pal to talk about my promotion, but the hour-long dinner was spent mostly teaching her child how to walk between the tables of the restaurant.

I enjoy hearing about my friends and their families, but I feel they are no longer interested in me. Am I expecting too much because we're at different points in our lives, or am I a bad friend? I'm growing resentful, and I don't like it. Any words of wisdom? -- STILL RELEVANT IN MASSACHUSETTS

**DEAR STILL RELEVANT:** You and your friends ARE at different stages of life. When you were in your teens, you and your friends would talk about dating. Then, as you grew older, the conversations revolved around college, jobs and marriage. As people experience the later stages of life, they talk about other things that are going on in their lives -- children, grandkids, aging parents and, finally, their own health concerns.

You'll maintain and enjoy these friendships longer if you understand that. In the meantime, try to set some "adult time only" with your friends.

■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been divorced for 14 years and have dated some, but not a lot. I recently signed up for an online dating service, and here is my dilemma: I have a felony conviction from 25-plus years ago. It did not involve violence, drugs, sex, stealing, etc. It was for a white-collar crime. I received four years of probation, which I served without a hitch.

My question is not if I should tell someone about my conviction, but WHEN. If I say anything at our first meeting, I'm pretty sure it will also be the last meeting. At the same time, I don't want it to appear that I was hiding it from them.

I might add, this is the only time I have ever been in trouble with the law. I'd appreciate your advice on how to deal with this. -- ONLINE DATING IN TEXAS

**DEAR DATING:** The time to tell someone about your conviction is when the relationship stops being casual. At that point, you should disclose that there is a chapter from your past that you think the person should know about -- and it's one that will never be repeated.

■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** After 25 years, I have finally admitted to myself that I'm married to a workaholic, alcoholic womanizer. I have devoted my entire adult life, my time, effort and energy to my family. Now I feel used, abused and disrespected. I'm grateful to be a member of Al-Anon. It has helped me to understand that I cannot change anyone but me.

I have raised three great, successful grown kids. I have yet to make a decision for myself. I married for life. Must I continue to suffer in silence? Or do I hope that there is love, kindness and respect out there to be had? -- STALLING IN IOWA

**DEAR STALLING:** Let me remind you what you've already learned in Al-Anon: You cannot change anyone but yourself. The same is true of your circumstances.

You are entitled to receive the same love and respect that you offer to others. I cannot guarantee that you'll find love. Because your workaholic, alcoholic, womanizing husband hasn't changed in a quarter of a century, it's obvious he has no intention of doing so.

You don't need to find another man in order to be happier than you are now. Being alone could give you peace, contentment and happiness. The question you need to answer honestly for yourself is whether you would be happier without your husband's negative influence in your life.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



*Dear Abby*

## Life & Style

### NY critics pick 'Llewyn Davis' as 2013's best film

**NEW YORK (AP)—**The National Society of Film Critics has chosen "Inside Llewyn Davis" as the best picture of 2013 at its annual meeting in New York.

The society's 56 voting members are movie critics from

around the U.S. The critics held their 48th annual awards voting meeting at the Film Society of Lincoln Center on Saturday.

The group also presented its best director award to Joel and

Ethan Coen. They directed "Inside Llewyn Davis," the story of a fictional folk singer in Greenwich Village in 1961.

The group named Oscar Isaac best actor for "Inside Llewyn Davis." Cate Blanch-

ett was named best actress for the Woody Allen film "Blue Jasmine."

The meeting was dedicated to the memory of two members who died in 2013: Roger Ebert and Stanley Kauffmann.

### Don Everly receives 'special spiritual message'

**NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—**The infighting and hard feelings between The Everly Brothers were well-known, but surviving brother Don felt he had a special moment with his brother Phil before Phil's passing Friday—even if the two weren't together at the time.

"I was listening to one of my favorite songs that Phil wrote and had an extreme emotional moment just before I got the news of his passing," Don Everly wrote in a statement to The Associated Press on Saturday morning. "I took that as a special spiritual message from Phil saying goodbye. Our love was and will always be deeper than any earthly differences we might have had."

Phil Everly died Friday in California from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. He was 74.

The Everly Brothers were arguably the most influential vocal duo in music history. They brought their love of country music to rock 'n' roll in the 1950s and 1960s, transforming the pop charts of the day and inspiring legions of young proto rockers

like the Beatles, Bob Dylan and the Byrds who would go on to change popular culture.

Songs like "Bye Bye Love" and "Wake Up Little Susie" remain a shared memory for generations of listeners who were hooked by their deceptively simple harmonies that hid greater meaning in songs that were dark and new compared with the pop music of the day.

The two broke up amid quarrelling in 1973 after 16 years of hits, then reunited in 1983, "sealing it with a hug," Phil Everly said.

There was a heavy outpouring on social media following Phil Everly's death, proving The Everly Brothers remain relevant a half-century after their first hits.

Don Everly said he didn't expect to see the day his brother would pass.

"I loved my brother very much," the 76-year-old wrote. "I always thought I'd be the one to go first. ... The world might be mourning an Everly Brother, but I'm mourning my brother Phil Everly."



AP  
In this April 1, 1960 file photo, Phil, left, and Don of the Everly Brothers arrive at London Airport from New York to begin their European tour.

### Steven Seagal says he may run for Ariz. governor

**PHOENIX (AP)—**Action-movie star Steven Seagal says he is considering a run for Arizona governor.

The "Marked for Death" actor told KNXV-TV that he is considering a shot at the

state's highest office and has had a talk about the bid with the self-proclaimed toughest sheriff in America.

The 61-year-old made the comments while talking about his newly released re-

ality series "Steven Seagal - Lawman: Maricopa County."

Seagal teamed up with Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio for the show that was shot in Arizona and airs on cable TV's Reelz Channel.

The martial arts expert is a member of Arpaio's posse, made up of 3,000 unpaid civilians. He also has been deputized with sheriff's offices in New Mexico, Texas and Louisiana and says he wants to increase border security.

### Car in Walker crash may have been going 100 mph

**LOS ANGELES (AP)—**The Porsche carrying "Fast & Furious" star Paul Walker may have been going 100 mph (160 kph) or more before it crashed, killing both Walker and the driver, according to a coroner's report released Friday.

Investigators found no mechanical problems with the 2005 Porsche Carrera GT or debris or other problems on the roadway. The street forms an approximately 1-mile (1.6-kilometer) loop amid industrial office parks and is rimmed by hills and isolated from traffic, especially on weekends. The downed light pole the car hit had a speed limit sign of 45 mph (72 kph). The area in Santa Clarita is about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northwest of downtown Los Angeles.

Roger Rodas, Walker's friend and financial adviser, was driving the Porsche at an unsafe speed, and witnesses interviewed by deputies estimated it was going 100 mph (160 kph) or more.



Walker

No alcohol or drugs were detected in the system of either man on the day of the fiery one-car crash.

The Nov. 30 deaths were ruled accidents and were due to combined traumatic and thermal injuries, the report said. It said both men were burned over 100 percent of their bodies.

Rodas had fourth-degree burns on his head and neck and severe skull fractures, the report said.

Walker had broken bones throughout his body including his jaw, arm, ribs and pelvis, it said.

The car slammed into a tree and a light pole on the driver's side then after spinning, hit a second tree on Walker's side of

the car and caught fire.

The report says the red Porsche was traveling "at an unsafe speed, approximately 100+ mph," according to a deputy who took testimony from witnesses at the scene.

"For unknown reasons, the driver lost control of his vehicle," the report says.

The Sheriff's Department had previously cited speed as a factor in the crash, but had released no estimate of how fast the Porsche was going.

Sheriff's investigators are working with Porsche officials and the California Highway Patrol to determine the speed more exactly. Three data recorders survived the crash and fire and may produce information to pinpoint the speed.

### Ke\$ha checks into rehab for eating disorder

**LOS ANGELES (AP)—**Ke\$ha has checked into rehab to treat an eating disorder.

The "Tik Tok" singer says in a statement provided by her spokesman Friday that she'll be unavailable for the next 30 days while she seeks treatment for an undisclosed eating disorder.

The 26-year-old pop star says she wants to "learn to love myself again, exactly as I am." No other details were provided.



Ke\$ha, whose real name is Kesha Rose Sebert, is the performer of such hits as "Crazy Love," "Die Young" and "Timber" with Pitbull. She starred in the MTV reality series "My Crazy Beautiful Life."



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

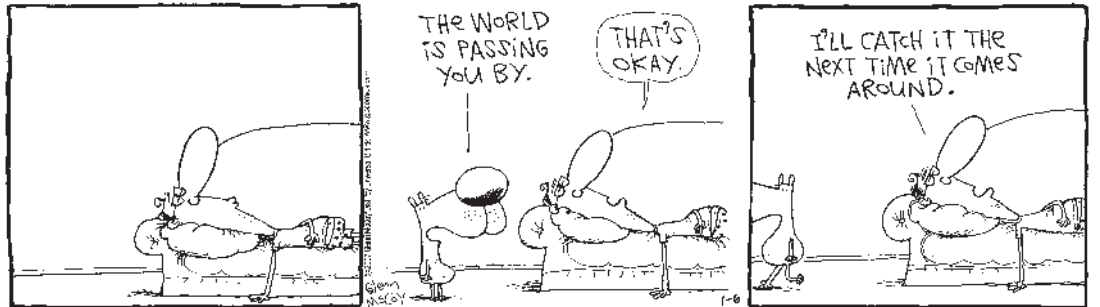


## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Two-wheeler

5 Charlotte's creation

8 Information

12 Paradise

13 Exist

14 Japanese sashes

15 Coral construct

16 Lunch-box item

18 Half a winter pair

20 Really small

21 Swag

23 "The Greatest"

24 Writer of a 1939 Lincoln bio

28 Remain

31 Actress Mendes

32 Spirited horse

34 "Rocks"

35 Moistens

37 Some baseball venues

**DOWN**

17 Narcs' agcy.

19 Weeps

22 Money dept.

24 Stitch

25 "Hail!"

26 All over

27 DNA source

29 Performance

30 "Absolutely"

33 June 6, 1944

36 Greasy fingerprint, e.g.

38 Park of MLK Jr.

40 Omega preceder

42 "Hey, you!"

43 —tat-tat

44 Bivouac shelter

46 "The Audacity of —"

47 Portent

48 Require

50 "Gosh!"

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

**Friday's answer**

1-6

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Julie Chen, 44; Gabrielle Reece, 44; John Singleton, 46; Rowan Atkinson, 59.

**Happy Birthday:** Step outside your comfort zone this year and try doing things a little differently. Your unique approach will draw interest and lead to proposals and partnerships that have eluded you in the past. Don't let what others do stand between you and your goals. Size up your situation and embrace the opportunities that come your way. Your numbers are 7, 16, 21, 24, 32, 38, 45.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Check out your options. Don't let someone discourage you. Getting angry with someone will only stand between you and your goals. Adjust how or where you live as well as the way you present what you have to offer. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Ask and you shall receive. Make a cold call or discuss a touchy subject and you will find a solution. Listen carefully and abide by the rules and you will overcome an obstacle. Focus on friendships, love and romance. \*\*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** What you expect and what you get may not coincide, but in the end, if you are eager to learn as you go, you will prosper. High energy coupled with positive change will encourage greater stability. Avoid emotional bribery. \*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Expect to face opposition and emotional turmoil. A setback regarding a partnership that has given you reason to question someone's motives

is likely to come to a head. Don't make a move until you are sure you are doing the right thing. \*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Find an outlet for your energy and you will make new friends and discover skills and services that you have to offer. A change in the way you do things will attract attention. Know your boundaries and you will avoid conflict. \*\*\*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Get involved in activities, events or gatherings that will allow you to share your views. What you have to offer will be considered reasonable and can lead to a second income. Romance is recommended and will enhance your personal life. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Don't get caught in the crossfire. Be aware of your surroundings and the situations that have potential to turn sour. Avoid excessive, indulgent people who tend to use bullying as a means of persuasion. Look out for your best interests. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Take flight and don't stop until you reach your destination. Having a goal-oriented attitude will leave little room for anyone trying to hold you back. Focus on going directly to the source and initiating what you want to see happen. \*\*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You can make changes at home, but make sure you've been given the go-ahead before you begin. Someone from your past or who can influence your future is likely to complain. Stick to a set budget and a feasible strategy. \*\*

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Rely on past experience to help you through the day. Less running around and more specific input and hard work will help you avoid complaints and interference. Keep your life simple, moderate and free of confusion and clutter. \*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Keep your personal plans a secret. The less you share with others, the easier it will be to reach your goals. There is money to be made if you make changes to the way you present what you have to offer. \*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Show a little emotion and you will receive all the help you require. Using persuasive tactics and going directly to those you have done things for in the past will enable you to push forward with plans that will stabilize your life. \*\*\*

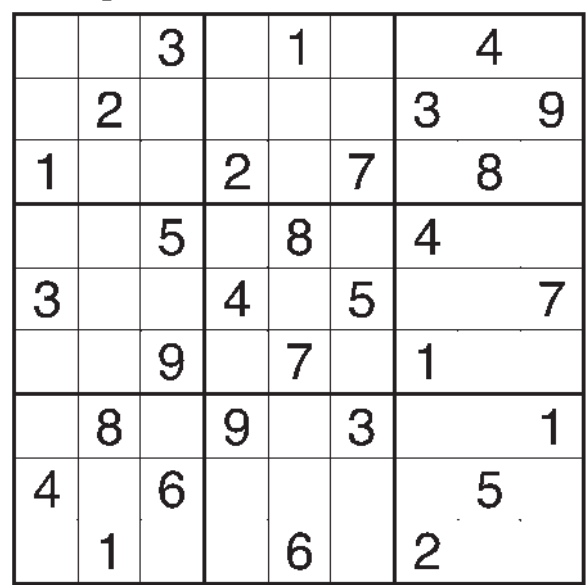
**Birthday Baby:** You are persistent, imaginative and intense. You are curious and adaptable.

Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

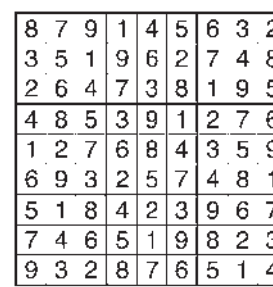


Difficulty Level ★

1/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level \*\*\*\*

1/07

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

WALL PHONES

Solution: 7 letters



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Adapter, Answer, Antique, Base, Bracket, Cable, Call, Coil, Conceal, Cordless, Date, Display, Drill, Flash, Hardware, Home, Indicator, Jack, Keypad, Kitchen, Line, Metal, Mount, Numbers, Office, Outlet, Pay Phones, Plug, Power, Pulse, Range, Radial, Ringer, Roam, Rotary, Secura, Socket, Stand, Switch, Talk, Time, Tone, Touch, Voicemail, Volume, Wire  
Last Friday's Answer: Volcano  
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit [wonderword.universalclic.com](http://wonderword.universalclic.com) or call 1-800-642-6480.

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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# CLASSIFIED ADS



WHATZIT Solution: Two's company, three's a crowd

## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

## CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

## ADVERTISING DEADLINE

### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

## CANCELLATION

### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

## REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

## CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

## ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

company  
company

crowd  
crowd  
crowd

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

2 - STEWARD  
1 - RESTAURANT SUPERVISOR  
1 - ASSISTANT F&B MANAGER  
1 - BARTENDER/RESTAURANT SUPERVISOR

ALL APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT A COMPANY'S WORK APPLICATION NO LATER THAN THE CLOSING DATE OF JANUARY 6, 2014. THEY CAN BE PICKED-UP AT THE FRONT OFFICE ANYTIME OR THE HR DEPT. M-F.

WANTED

Maintenance Supervisor

■ More than 4 years experience  
■ Computer skills required (word & excel)  
■ Manage & direct staff members  
■ Ability to handle & execute projects effectively  
■ Extensive experience in purchasing

Submit your resume at Atom's Co., Ltd. Office located in Lower Miha Housing Area, Garapan. For more info please contact 233-8880

Avis rent a car Saipan  
is looking for a highly motivated professional to join our team as:

Supervisor

Candidate must have:  
■ Minimum 3 year experience in management  
■ Effective leadership to inspire and develop teamwork and growth  
■ Customer Service Oriented  
■ Excellent communication skills  
■ Motivation for Sales  
■ Multi tasking with a high degree of accuracy and professionalism  
■ Ability to build customer loyalty  
■ Must be able to work flexible hours

Candidates may email their resume to ksegal@avisguam.com

Job Vacancy Announcement

Creel Technician/Biologist – Rota

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), in conjunction with the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), will be initiating a pilot fisherman creel survey on the island of Rota, CNMI. The survey will consist of interviewing fisherman to obtain fishing effort data and identifying and measuring catch from both shore- and boat-based fishing activities.

NOAA and DFW are seeking motivated individuals who can identify reef fish and pelagic fish species, who can work and communicate effectively with local fishermen, who have an understanding of the Rota fishing communities and who can work nights and/or weekends as scheduled.

Potential candidates will have to have a valid business license, CNMI driver's license and dependable vehicle prior to the award of the contract.

For more information please contact Steve McKagan at (670) 234-0004 or at steven.mckagan@noaa.gov.

Job Vacancy Announcement

(25) Security Officer

Submit applications, police clearance, and copy of certification to our office  
Apply: Rm. 3D, 3rd Floor, TSL Building, Garapan.  
Police Clearance & Certification required with application  
www.g4s.mp

EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY: G4S is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Employer and observes all federal employment opportunity regulations, practices and policies. Federal Law requires presentation of proof of identity and eligibility to work in the United States. We comply with this law on a nondiscriminatory basis. Must be 18 years or older and must be able to speak, read and write English. Open to all qualified U.S. Workers without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex citizenship and is in compliance with Title II of the Genetics Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA). This job is open to all U.S. Veterans, Persons with Disabilities and Women In Non-traditional occupations that are qualified, willing, able and available to perform the job.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

10-Heavy Equipment Mechanic Rate: \$5.60 \$ to \$7.25 per hour  
Must be a h/s grad w/ min of 2 yrs exp as H.E. Mechanic. With knowledge how to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul mobile mechanical, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks and conveyors, used in construction. Must be able to work flexible time.

05 –Painters Rate: \$5.60 to \$6.50 per hour  
Must be a h/s grad w/min of 2 yrs exp. as a Painter To paint walls, equipment buildings, bridges and other structural surfaces, using brushes rollers and spray guns. May remove old paint to prepare surface prior to painting. May mix colors or oils to obtain desired color or consistency. Must be able to work flexible time.

All positions close on Jan 08, 2014. Applications are available at GPCC Inc office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of valid Police Clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills testing may be required. GPCC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Snack Shop Attendant \$6.00/ hour. Multi-lingual highly preferred. Call 285-3838 for interview.

Atlas Marine Co. is searching for a Vessel Maintenance/Paint technician for expanded service. Work experience 5years or more required. Position pays \$5.55/hr, 40hrs per week. Contact 670-285-7900.

Roman S. Palacios dba Pat's Apartment

(1) Commercial Cleaner

Interested applicants must email a resume to hrd3@joeten.com

Vacancy Announcement

(1) Inventory Clerk – High School Diploma or general education degree; or one to 2 yrs. related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience.

Submit Applications To:  
Pam Pacific Enterprises Corp.  
Tel. 233-6886

CARS FOR SALE

2013 Silver Toyota Rav4  
4Cyl., Like New. 3K miles. A/C, A/T Factory Warranty Fully equipped (Fully paid off). \$22,000.

2011 Black Toyota 4 Runner  
SUV, 4Cyl. Like New. 7 Seats. 17K miles. A/C, A/T Factory Warranty Fully equipped (Fully paid off). \$28,000.

Please Call 483-9400 or 234-1232

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT  
WINCHELL'S DONUTS

1 vacancy for **Operations Manager**. Wage per hour depends on qualifications. Must be college level with at least 5 years of continued experience in managing a bakery or similar operations; must be capable of managing 15 or more people and more than one store; must be computer literate and possesses knowledge in operating cash register or POS system; must have an experience in handling the administrative and financial aspect of a business. Capability of conversing in basic Japanese or other foreign languages is highly preferred.

1 vacancy for **Store Manager**. Wage per hour depends on qualifications. Must be college level and has at least 2 years of continued experience in managing bakery operations; must have knowledge in operating cash register or POS system; must be customer-service oriented, computer literate and confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Capability of conversing in basic Japanese or other foreign languages is highly preferred.

4 vacancies for **Donut Makers/Bakers**. Wage ranges from \$5.55/hr to \$5.70/hr. Must be a high school graduate with an equivalent of at least 4 years experience in baking; must be able to read, write and speak basic English; must be capable of lifting at least 50lbs and has basic mathematical skills and knowledge in operating a cash register or POS system. Capability of conversing in basic Japanese and other foreign languages is highly preferred.

Additional requirements: All applicants must be of good health with good moral character. Must be able to follow grooming standards; provide current police/court clearance and health certificate. Must have reliable transportation and must undergo a drug test.

Applications may be obtained and submitted at Winchell's Garapan from 8am to 12pm or email them at dennys@guam.net

WANTED TO BUY

We buy used cars! Accepting all make and models from 97' & up. Call 287-8688 DPA CAR MART.

Francisco C. Cabrera dba Design Florist / Cabrera Funeral

Job Vacancy Announcement  
Closing Date: January 08, 2014  
(1) Flower Arranger  
• Must have at least 3 yrs experience  
• Can work flexible hours  
(1) Event Coordinator  
• Associates Degree  
• Can work flexible hours  
Send resume to PO Box 500866 CK Saipan, MP 96950

Job Vacancy Announcement

Accountant (1)  
Music Teacher (1)  
Submit resume at MBA office in Dandan (across Shell Station) on or before January 15, 2014. Marianas Baptist Academy  
PO Box 500904 Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel# 234-6508

Warehouse for RENT

REM GUALO RAI  
Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft  
\$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable  
REM LOWERBASE  
Warehouse #4 - Size: 9,000sq/ft  
Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft  
\$0.45 per sq/ft. Negotiable  
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 235-6527/28 or 285-1317

Job opening for (02) SURVEYOR

Rate \$ 5.60 to 8.00 per hour

Must be a college graduate with minimum of 5 years' experience as a surveyor. Must be able to work flexible time.

Surveyor job opening will be closed on January 08, 2014. Interested applicants please Apply at Castro and Associates. Located at Capitol Hill Saipan, CNMI, PMB 377 Box 100000, Saipan MP 96950, contact number (670)288-8739. A copy of valid Police Clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills testing may be required. Castro and Associates is an Equal Opportunity Employer

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Realty Management Services

Fina Sisu Terraces  
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. \$250/month.  
2-BR, 1-BTH. \$350-\$550/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces  
(Navy Hill)  
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view. \$600/month

Sunset View Terraces  
(Navy Hill)  
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view. \$550/month

LNH Apartments  
(Lower Navy Hill)  
Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. EPA Solar Water Heater. \$350-\$450/month

FEATURES:  
■ Fully Furnished  
■ Back-up Generator  
■ Air-conditioning in all rooms  
■ FREE WIFI  
■ Laundry Area  
■ Nighttime Security  
■ Ample Parking  
■ 24hr water

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com  
Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper

Call 235-NEWS



Hiring Bartender @ Zebra

Must have a minimum of at least 2 years or more related work experience.

Located at Paseo De Marianas, Beach Road Side.

For more information, please call 789-7856

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(01) General Manager

- Minimum of 2 years experience in the Bar Business
- Preferably someone who speaks Japanese
- Monthly-based starting salary \$1,000.00

Interested applicants please call 789-7856 for more information. WTT (USA) LLC.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Administrative Assistant for Sports Facilities  
High school diploma or GED Certificate plus experience working in sports organization or sports facilities. Must be computer literate: Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook. Applicant must have good written and oral communication skills. Can work flexible hours and available on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Tuesday, January 14, 2014.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.


EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

EXPERIENCED COMMERCIAL  
PROPERTY & CASUALTY  
UNDERWRITER

APPLICANT SHOULD HAVE THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum 7 years in the insurance operations.
- Sales & Marketing Experience needed.
- Engineering Degree Preferred.
- Customer Service oriented.
- Proficient knowledge and skill using MS Word, MS Excel
- Good written and oral skills.
- Ability to work under pressure and meet timelines.
- Is highly organized, keeps accurate filing system
- Must possess a valid drivers license.
- Police Clearance Required.
- Salary based on experience.

Benefits include: Sick leave, paid vacation, Holiday pay, employee discounts, medical, dental and group life insurance. Please apply in person at: Moylans Insurance office located on Beach Road in Garapan. Apply no later than 1PM, January 14, 2014.



Moylan's Insurance Is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accountant  
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work-related experience in general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Associate Editor  
Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any other related course with at least 5 years experience, including newsroom management, story evaluation, and production. Must have strong rewriting, headlining, and proofreading skills and must be able to meet tight deadlines. Preferably with an extensive experience in sports writing.

Circulations Officer  
Associates degree in Business Administration, Accounting or any related course. Minimum of 2 years work-related experience in a newspaper or magazine publication. Good oral and written communication skills and proficient in MS Word, Excel & PowerPoint. Must be self-motivated with strong organizational skills to help manage newspaper circulation assignments. Must have dependable transportation and able to work early mornings and evening hours.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Tuesday, January 14, 2014.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Job Vacancy Announcement

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. has immediate job openings for the following positions:

Floor Attendant (3)

**Position Summary:** Responsible for ensuring that the gaming machines floor operate smoothly and for providing a high degree of courteous service to guests during their entertainment experience. Assist the Gaming Floor Supervisor in maintaining the highest standards of efficiency, security and customer satisfaction.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a gaming floor attendant or game room customer service or any combination of experience, education and/or training where gaming operations or gaming floor attendant skills are demonstrated or willing to undergo in-house training. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Cashier (3)

**Position Summary:** Conduct financial transactions for patrons/guests. Exchange coins, tokens, and chips for patrons' money. Issue payoffs and obtain customer's signature on receipt. Count funds and reconcile daily summaries of transactions to balance books. Convert gaming checks, coupons, tokens, or coins to currency for gaming patrons. Maintain cage security. Maintain confidentiality of customers' transactions. Use cash register or computer to record transactions.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a game room cashier or casino cash desk operations or any combination of experience, education and/or training where financial transactions for patrons/guest skills are demonstrated or willing to undergo in-house training. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Surveillance Operator

**Position Summary:** Responsible for video observation of all aspects of the e-gaming/digital lounge operation and the reporting of all irregular or illegal activities.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a surveillance operator or investigator or any combination of experience, education and/or training in video surveillance and/or related investigations into all casino/e-gaming lounge related activities including accounting, gaming machines, change booths, cashiering operations, count rooms, or wagering areas. Knowledge of gaming internal control procedures, CCTV and security management systems. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Security Officer

**Position Summary:** Responsible for the safety and well being of guests and fellow employees and protection of company property. Regularly provides escorts of money and persons in money-handling positions. Patrols all sections of property to identify safety hazards and breaks in security. Enforces all company policies and procedures. Maintains and enforces internal security regulations.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a security or police officer or investigator or any combination of experience, education and/or training in video surveillance and/or related investigations into all casino/e-gaming lounge related activities including accounting, gaming machines, change booths, cashiering operations, count rooms, or wagering areas. Knowledge of gaming internal control procedures, CCTV and security management systems. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Bartender

**Position Summary:** Responsible for operating and maintaining the e-gaming/digital lounge bar during the shift ensuring that the bar, equipment and stock is maintained and cleaned. Ensure that all stock levels are adequate. Mix and serve drinks to patrons, directly or through waitstaff

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 1 year work experience as a bartender. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Must have in depth knowledge about wines, spirits, cocktails and other drink ingredients. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Waiter – Waitress (3)

**Position Summary:** Take orders and serve food and beverages to customers at tables and all other areas of the e-gaming/digital lounges. Regularly check customers to ensure they are enjoying their food and beverages and take action to correct any problems. Prepare checks or receipts that itemize and total meals/beverages costs.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 1 year work experience as a waiter/waitress. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Ability to communicate effectively with customers, guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Guest Services/Marketing Supervisor (1)

**Position Summary:** Responsible for development and execution of marketing, budget and promotional campaigns. Structure and maintain effective VIP and guest services department. Ensure full support is given to junkets, premium players and VIP's visiting the e-gaming/digital lounge. Market the e-gaming/digital lounge internationally and develop and maintain customer contacts in target markets. Ensure effective liaison between guest services and other departments. Identify, develop, or evaluate marketing strategy, based on knowledge of establishment objectives, market characteristics and other relevant factors. Formulate, direct as well as coordinate marketing activities plus policies to promote products and services, working with advertising promotion managers.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 year experience working in a casino guest services department as a guest service/marketing supervisor or e-gaming clubs promoting gaming entertainment and services. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Must have in depth knowledge about marketing strategies. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Compensation:

All positions will be filled and paid at a rate commensurate with qualification, work experience, and ability to perform.

Job Location:

Saipan and at all offices or e-gaming/digital gaming lounges of the corporation.

Application:

Applications may be obtained from the HR Office of Mita Travel, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan. The detailed job description & KSA and benefits for each position is available for review by applicants. Deadline for submission of completed applications is January 8, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Job Vacancy Announcement

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. has immediate job openings for the following positions:

General Manager, Electronic Gaming (1)

**Position Summary:** Plan, direct and co-ordinate the operations of a business, division, department or operating unit of Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. Plan and maintain systems and procedures for operating efficiency. Manage staff for optimum performance. Ensure compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal laws and adherence to and maintenance of policy of confidentiality within the gaming operation; and to produce maximum revenue levels.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent and a certificate in gaming operations or management plus 13 years of successful work experience in one or more gaming operations, 7 years of which must be as a gaming table or gaming machine manager; ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form and the ability to handle multiple tasks; demonstrated experience and ability to manage all table games and must be computer literate. Knowledge and experience in strategic planning; marketing, brand reinforcement; networking, stakeholder communication; financial management, forecasting, budgeting; team building and development; staff management, mentoring and motivation; organizational, coordination and time management; complete all documentation accurately in accordance with standards and applicable local and federal laws. Ability to work any shift or hours; must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends; highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent and leadership skills. Ability to work any shift or hours.

Human Resources Officer (1)

**Position Summary:** Responsible for planning, development, and implementation of all HR policies, procedures, standards, systems and program; provide supervision and direction as well as coordinate all activities of the Human Resources Office to ensure that all established goals are achieved; Manages and administers a specialized corporate-wide human resource activity such as recruitment, selection and retention, employee relations, compensation, training and development, organizational development, classification, training or benefits and occupational safety. Responsible for major program administration, policy and procedure formulation and implementation involving in-depth communication and analysis.

**Position Requirement:** Degree or diploma in human resources management, business administration, public administration or equivalent plus 3 years generalist human resources experience or professional level experience in human resources with at least two years supervisory experience or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training where personnel skills and managing people are demonstrated; knowledge of the principles and practices of HR management; knowledge of business principles; knowledge of HR relevant legislation and regulations; knowledge of relevant software; knowledge and experience in strategic planning, workforce planning, performance management and HR alignment; highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills; computer literate.

Finance Manager (1)

**Position Summary:** Responsible for the entire function and activities of the Finance Department, for applying accounting principles and procedures to analyze financial information, forecast revenue and expenditures, preparing accurate and timely financial reports and statements and ensuring appropriate accounting control procedures.

**Position Requirement:** Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Business Administration or related area; or four to six years related experience and/or training; or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Minimum of three (3) years experience in accounting, in management of financial systems and budgets, financial reporting, financial data analysis and forecasting, auditing, taxation and providing financial advice, preferably in the gaming industry, with progressive supervisory/managerial experience required. Experience as a financial manager who has led a focused, business oriented team.. Good oral and written communication skills. Must be a practical, logical and decisive individual with the ability to get the job done. Must be extremely numbers-oriented and computer-literate, with superior spreadsheet skills; proficiency in accounting and Excel software highly preferred.

Executive Assistant (1)

**Position Summary:** Perform all and/or any combination of clerical duties requiring knowledge of systems, practices, or procedures and use of all types office machines; maintain and control all aspects relating to club management systems; supervise and participate in the Electronic Gaming Machine soft count and the issuing and collection of cash floats to the Bar; and carry out regular audits of Food and Beverage stocks as requested by the Finance Manager.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 3 years work experience in responsible office management providing high level support; be able to communicate clearly in and possess a good command of verbal and written English. Knowledge of administrative and clerical procedures and systems such as word processing, managing files and records, stenography and transcription, designing forms, and other office procedures and terminology. Proficient computer skills and in-depth knowledge of relevant software such as MS Office Suite. Knowledge of standard office administrative practices and procedures. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Shift Manager (3)

**Position Summary:** Responsible and accountable for the overall efficient and profitable operation of all operational areas of the e-gaming/digital gaming lounges of the corporation. Maintain with the support of all subordinate personnel the highest standards of efficiency, customer service and security, in accordance with the policies and procedures of the corporation. Assume the duties and authority of (Operational areas of the Club – Gaming Bar, waiters/waitresses, security officers and dealers) the General Manager in his/her absence, and perform any other special duties as requested from time to time by the General Manager.

**Position Requirement:** Degree in business management or related field or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training where gaming operations or gaming management skills and managing people are demonstrated. Able to communicate clearly in and possess a good command of verbal and written English. A minimum of 3 years' experience in casino gaming / slots management/e-gaming machine/table games. Ability to work in a team. Must demonstrate the ability to supervise the activities of others.

Electronic Gaming Machine Technician (3)

**Position Summary:** Responsible for the efficient running of all electronic gaming machines, servrs and IT systems. Repair, service and maintain electronic gaming machines in order to minimize down time of machines which results in loss of revenue. Organize the activities of maintenance and technician contractors.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED, technical school plus a minimum of 3 years work experience as a slots or e-gaming machine technician in a casino or equivalent or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training in e-gaming machines repair, service, and maintenance skills can be demonstrated. Able to communicate clearly in and possess a good command of verbal and written English. Knowledge of various types of electronic gaming equipment used on casino floor and demonstrate the skills and ability to diagnose problems, take corrective action necessary, and ensure device is operational as quickly and efficiently as practical.

Gaming Floor Supervisor (2)

**Position Summary:** Supervise and organize the gaming floor, maintaining the highest standards of efficiency, security and customer satisfaction, in accordance with the procedures and policies of the corporation. Responsible and accountable for the overall efficient and profitable operation of all operational areas of the gaming floor through subordinate personnel. Assume the duties and authority of the Shift Manager in his/her absence, and perform any other special duties as requested from time to time by the General Manager.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 3 years successful work experience in slots or gaming club or lounge supervisory management or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training where personnel skills and managing people or managing gaming floor supervision or operation are demonstrated.

Guest Services Officer (2)

**Position Summary:** Responsible for ensuring the smooth operation of the guest services desk on a designated shift. Ensure full support is given to visiting junkets, premium players and VIP's visiting the e-gaming/digital lounge.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 3 years successful work experience as a guest services officer in a casino, slots or gaming club or lounge or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training where guests services skills are demonstrated. Able to communicate clearly in and possess a good command of verbal and written English. Excellent Public Speaking and communication skills. Must be computer literate with effective negotiating and problem solving skills.

Compensation:

All positions will be filled and paid at a rate commensurate with qualification, work experience, and ability to perform.

Job Location:

Saipan and at all offices or e-gaming/digital gaming lounges of the corporation.

Application:

Applications may be obtained from the HR Office of Mita Travel, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan. The detailed job description & KSA and benefits for each position is available for review by applicants. Deadline for submission of completed applications is January 7, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.



# Luck rallies Indy to 45-44 playoff win over Chiefs



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Chuck Pagano couldn't believe his eyes. Andrew Luck couldn't believe his ears. Colts fans couldn't believe the scoreboard, and the Kansas City Chiefs couldn't believe their incredibly bad luck.

It seemed unfathomable.

On a day Luck appeared to be pressing and, at times, as bad as he ever has while putting Indianapolis in a 28-point deficit, the Colts quarterback somehow turned things around. He threw three of his four touchdowns in the second half, scored on a fumble return and connected with a wide-open T.Y. Hilton on a 64-yard TD pass to give the Colts an improbable 45-44 wild-card victory Saturday.

"One for the ages," said Pagano, Indianapolis' coach. "I think somebody said that it was the second-largest comeback or whatever in the history of whatever. I guess 21 wasn't large enough at half, so we thought we've give them another seven, you know, just to make it interesting."

Actually, rallying from 28 down made the latest of Luck's amazing comebacks one to remember.

Indianapolis (12-5) became only the second playoff team to rally from that big a deficit, according to STATS. Buffalo rallied from 32 points to beat Houston 41-38 in January 1993, though that one required overtime.

The teams' 1,049 combined total yards set an NFL postseason record, and their 89 combined points is third on the all-time list.

The Colts, winners of four straight, travel to either Denver or New England next weekend for the divisional round.

Luck was an incredible mix of good and bad, finishing 29 of 45 for 443 yards, the second-highest yardage total in franchise history for a playoff game. He also matched his career high with three interceptions. Hilton broke franchise playoff records with 13 catches and 224 yards, and also caught two TDs.

But it was the way Indy won that made it stunning.

Luck played angry and frantic, turning a steady stream of halftime boos into a chorus of cheers.

"I don't know if it ever crossed my mind on how it would be remembered," Luck said after winning his first playoff game four seasons quicker than it took his predecessor, Peyton Manning. "When I took a knee, and you feel the buzz and the energy of the crowd and see your teammates' faces, that makes it special."

For Kansas City, it was another brief, miserable postseason appearance.

The Chiefs (11-6) finished their remarkable turnaround season with three straight losses and an eighth straight postseason defeat—none more shocking than this one. The eight consecutive losses broke a tie with the Detroit Lions for the longest playoff skid.

And they were beaten up, too.

Starting running back Jamaal Charles left with a concussion on the opening possession. Knile Davis, Charles' backup, left in the fourth quarter with what appeared to be a left knee injury. Receiver Donnie Avery and cornerback Brandon Flowers were knocked out with second-half concussions, and linebacker Justin Houston was out with a knee injury when Hilton caught the



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Andrew Luck (12) dives for a touchdown after recovering a fumble by the Colts' Eric Berry during the second half of an NFL wild-card playoff football game against the Kansas City Chiefs Saturday, Jan. 4, 2014, in Indianapolis.

winning pass.

That put even more pressure on Alex Smith, who was 30 of 46 for 378 yards with four TDs and no interceptions but lost a fumble that led to a touchdown for Indy. Just about everyone other than the Colts figured Smith sealed the win with a 10-yard TD pass to Davis less than two minutes into the third quarter.

Instead, he tried to rally the Chiefs after Hilton's score and wound up throwing to Dwayne Bowe—who caught the ball but was out of bounds—on fourth-and-11 with 1:55 to play from the Indy 43.

"Anytime you're leading like that and then have them battle back and then take it, and you end up losing by a point, it's tough, a tough pill to swallow," Smith said.

Things appeared bleak with Indy trailing 31-10 at halftime, and they got worse when Luck's first pass of the second half was picked off and returned to the Indy 18. Three plays later, Smith made it 38-10.

But Luck had plenty of time to make the jaw-dropping rally.

With Indy going no-huddle, Luck started throwing at will. He eventually caught the Chiefs defense off-guard when Donald Brown scored on a 10-yard run to start the rally. Then Luck capitalized on the fumble by hooking with Brown on a 3-yard TD pass to make it 38-24.

After Luck's third interception turned into a 42-yard field goal, he answered with a 12-yard TD pass to cut the deficit to 41-31 after three quarters.

"He's as advertised. He went out there and definitely avoided some pressure and made big plays down the field," Chiefs cornerback Sean Smith said, referring to Luck.

Even when Eric Berry jarred the ball loose from Brown near the goal line, Luck had the answer. He scooped up

the bouncing ball and squirted through the middle to make it 41-38. And after a Kansas City field goal, Luck found Hilton to win it.

"It seemed surreal, being down like we were down and then you have that fourth-down stop and they had used their last timeout there at the 2-minute warning," Pagano said. "Thinking about how good tomorrow's going to be, snow or no snow, I don't really care."

## Saints 26, Eagles 24

In Philadelphia, after erasing nearly a half-century of road playoff frustration, a trip to Seattle shouldn't be intimidating for Drew Brees, Shayne Graham and the New Orleans Saints.

Graham's 32-yard field goal, the fourth of the game for the recent addition to the team, won the wild-card game on the final play, 26-24 over the Philadelphia Eagles on Saturday night. Brees, who threw for a touchdown and guided the 34-yard drive to the winning kick, didn't need to be a big star because the Saints' running game and defense—along with Graham's leg—provided the heroics.

"It's just, man, believing in each other, ignoring what everyone else has to say," Brees said.

New Orleans had been 0-5 in postseason games outside of the Big Easy since entering the league in 1967. The Saints (12-5) will play at NFC top-seed Seattle next Saturday; they lost there 34-7 in the regular season.

"It's loud, it's crazy, they've got a good thing going there," Brees said of the next challenge. "Obviously, they've only lost one game there in the last two years. But having been there less than a month ago, I think that serves us well, what to expect, how to prepare for it."

"But we're going to need our best game, that's for sure."

This was not their best offensive

game, by far. But Graham, now with his 10th team after being signed by the Saints just over two weeks ago to replace long-time kicker Garrett Hartley, also connected from 36, 46 and 35 yards.

"I didn't feel an ounce of fear," the 13-year veteran said. "If I had been here for 14 years or for one game, my job is the same. I feel like I've been adopted into a family."

Brees threw a 24-yard touchdown pass to Lance Moore, Mark Ingram rushed for 97 yards and another score, and the Saints' defense slowed Chip Kelly's up-tempo offense just enough.

The Eagles wound up 10-7 in Kelly's first year as coach. He guided them from worst to first in the NFC East, but they were only 4-5 at home.

"I didn't think winning the division was a surprise to us and we're disappointed we didn't move forward," Kelly said.

Nick Foles hit rookie Zach Ertz for a 3-yard touchdown with 4:54 remaining as Philadelphia rallied from a 13-point deficit to take a one-point lead. But Darren Sproles had a 39-yard kickoff return and a horse-collar tackle brought New Orleans to the Philadelphia 48. Using mostly runs, the Saints ate up the clock and set up Graham's winner.

"We know what we're all about," Brees said. "This was a great testament to that. Coming on the road, hostile environment, great team, one of the hottest teams in football and getting one of those big victories."

Two teams with prolific offenses couldn't get on track for much of the game.

Graham's 46-yarder as the first half ended made it 7-6 as everyone wondered where all the offensive fireworks went. The teams combined for an average of 816.7 yards and 53.5 points per game during the regular season.

When Riley Cooper, who earlier scored Philadelphia's first touchdown, had a huge drop in the third quarter, the Saints immediately made Philly pay. A 66-yard drive highlighted by Benjamin Watson's 27-yard reception led to Ingram's TD from the 4 for a 20-7 lead.

That's when the Eagles finally made a dynamic play with the ball, DeSean Jackson's leaping 40-yard catch over Corey White. NFL rushing leader LeSean McCoy scored from the 1 on fourth down to make things close.

Jackson helped make it closer with a 29-yard punt return that set up Alex Henery's 31-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter, cutting the Saints' lead to 20-17.

Another 40-yard completion, from Brees to seldom-used Robert Meachem, led to Graham's 35-yard field goal, setting up the frantic finish.

Jackson was the central figure in setting up Ertz's go-ahead score, drawing a 40-yard pass interference call on the beleaguered White.

But Brees then guided the winning drive, disappointing Foles, who went to the same Texas high school as Brees and wears the same No. 9.

"This doesn't feel good," said Foles, who led the NFL in passer rating and was 8-3 as a starter. "We wanted to keep playing. It's tough to lose. It hurts. But we're going to keep building."

Meanwhile, the Saints move on with confidence in a defense that held the NFL's top rushing offense to 80 yards—McCoy had just 77—and their own ground game, which gained 185 without injured Pierre Thomas.

"Just the fact they had confidence in me to carry the load, it says a lot," Ingram said. "People are going to talk, you'll always have critics, have doubters. But my teammates know I go out there and bust my tail every day and that's all that matters."



# Durant carries Thunder to win over Timberwolves



**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)**—Kevin Durant scored 23 of his season-high 48 points in the fourth quarter and hit the winner with 4 seconds to play to rally the Oklahoma City Thunder from 13 points down in a 115-111 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Saturday night.

Durant went 7 for 11 from the field and hit four 3-pointers in the final quarter to help the Thunder rebound from two straight losses at home.

Kevin Love played the entire second half and finished with 30 points, 14 rebounds and five assists for the Wolves. But he missed four free throws in the final 27 seconds to let this one slip away. The last three came when he was fouled on a 3-pointer with 2.2 seconds to go and the Wolves down two.

Derek Fisher scored 13 points and Serge Ibaka had 12 for Oklahoma City, which was outscored 66-46 in the paint.

Minnesota's Nikola Pekovic had 31 points and 11 rebounds.

## Spurs 116, Clippers 92

In San Antonio, Tiago Splitter had 22 points before leaving with a right shoulder injury, Tim Duncan added 19 points and 11 rebounds, and San Antonio beat Los Angeles in the Clippers' first game without injured All-Star Chris Paul.

Tony Parker had 17 points for San Antonio (26-8). Splitter left with 9:37 remaining after charging into Ryan Hollins' chest.

Jamal Crawford scored 24 points for Los Angeles, and Blake Griffin had 19. Darren Collison added 14 points and six assists while starting in place of Paul, who separated his right shoulder Friday night against Dallas.

## 76ers 101, Trail Blazers 99

In Portland, Ore., Thaddeus Young had 30 points and Philadelphia held on for its fourth straight win, all on the road.

Evan Turner added 23 points and rookie star Michael Carter-Williams had 16, but fell hard on the court at the final buzzer when he was trying to keep Damian Lillard from scoring the tying basket.

Carter-Williams appeared to hit his head and stayed down for several moments while his teammates held off their celebration. When he finally rose, he held his hand to his head.

Portland's LaMarcus Aldridge had 29 points and 14 rebounds for his 20th double-double this season. Robin Lopez added 14 points and 15 rebounds in just the Blazers' fourth loss at home this season.

## Heat 110, Magic 94

In Orlando, Fla., Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh each had 20 points, helping Miami rally for the win.



Oklahoma City Thunder's Kevin Durant shoots as Minnesota Timberwolves' Corey Brewer, left, and Kevin Martin defend during the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Jan. 4, 2014, in Minneapolis.

Rashard Lewis added 18 points and LeBron James finished with 15 points, eight rebounds and eight assists.

The Heat's win was their eighth straight over the Magic. It was also Miami's 22nd consecutive divisional victory, leaving it just one win short of tying Boston's NBA record of 23 set in 1961.

Jameer Nelson led Orlando with 21 points, and Tobias Harris added 17 points and 10 rebounds. The Magic lost their third straight.

## Pacers 99, Pelicans 82

In Indianapolis, Paul George had 24 points and 10 rebounds to lead four Pacers in double figures, and Indiana rallied from a seven-point halftime deficit for the win.

Lance Stephenson scored 19 points on 8-of-12 shooting, Danny Granger came off the bench to score 13 and George Hill added 10 for Indiana.

Eric Gordon finished with 21 points for the Pelicans after scoring 17 in the first half. Alexis Ajinca scored 17 points, reserve Tyreke Evans added 12

and Anthony Davis 10 for New Orleans.

Five different Pacers scored as Indiana went on a 14-0 run over a 4:12 span of the third quarter. The Pelicans, meanwhile, missed seven straight field goals.

## Nets 89, Cavaliers 82

In New York, Deron Williams scored 21 points for Brooklyn, and Paul Pierce added 17 while moving past Allen Iverson into 19th place on the NBA's career scoring list.

Andray Blatche had 12 points in his return from a four-game absence as the Nets won their second straight for just their second winning streak of the season. They limited a Cleveland team playing without star guard Kyrie Irving to 37 percent shooting and matched their best defensive performance of the season.

Reggie Evans had eight points and 11 rebounds for the Nets while starting in place of Kevin Garnett, who was given a night to rest with the Nets beginning a stretch of five games in eight days.

Dion Waiters scored 26 points for the Cavaliers, who played without Irving for the second straight game because of his bruised left knee. They beat Orlando in overtime on Thursday but didn't have nearly enough firepower in this one, losing for the seventh time in eight games.

## Bobcats 113, Kings 103

In Sacramento, Calif., Kemba Walker scored 30 points, Al Jefferson had a season-high 27 and the Charlotte snapped a season-high five-game losing streak.

The Bobcats had lost their previous two games by a combined 57 points, but took the lead in this one with 17 unanswered points in the second quarter. It was Charlotte's only win on its five-game road trip.

DeMarcus Cousins had 26 points and 11 rebounds and Isaiah Thomas added 21 points and eight assists for the Kings, who are 6-13 at home this season. Rudy Gay scored 17 points and Jason Thompson contributed 14 points and 12 rebounds.

Gerald Henderson scored 16 points for the Bobcats, who were embarrassed in a 134-104 loss Thursday night in Portland. Ramon Sessions had 12 points and Chris

Douglas-Roberts added 10.

## Bulls 91, Hawks 84

In Chicago, Mike Dunleavy scored 11 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter, leading Chicago to its fifth win in seven games.

Luol Deng added 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Bulls, hitting two free throws with 8.8 seconds left to seal the win.

Paul Millsap and Jeff Teague scored 16 points apiece for the Hawks.

Atlanta's Kyle Korver extended his NBA record of games with at least one made 3-pointer to 103 straight when he hit the first of his two 3s with 9:59 left in the first quarter. Korver finished with eight points.

Chicago forward Carlos Boozer missed the game with a sore right knee. An MRI came back negative and the team is hopeful it's nothing serious.

## Suns 116, Bucks 100

In Phoenix, Gerald Green had 24 points and a career-high five steals starting in place of the injured Eric Bledsoe, pushing Phoenix to the win.

Channing Frye added 22 points, going 6 of 9 on 3-pointers, Goran Dragic scored 13 of his 15 in the second half and Markieff Morris added 14 for the Suns, who have won 11 of 14 but were coming off a home loss to Memphis on Thursday.

Brandon Knight had 25 points for the Bucks and O.J. Mayo scored 18 of his 20 in the second half.

Milwaukee committed a season-worst 26 turnovers, resulting in 38 Suns points. Phoenix had 11 turnovers for just seven Bucks points.

Bledsoe missed his second game in a row with a sprained right knee and is expected to be out for another week.

# Zach Johnson takes a 3-shot lead in Hawaii

**KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP)**—On the golf course with the widest fairways on the PGA Tour, Zach Johnson believes that keeping the ball in the short grass is key to success. On a course that favors power players because the par 5s can be reached in two, Johnson didn't make birdie on any of them Saturday.

Stranger still is that he matched the best score of the day and had a three-shot lead in the Tournament of Champions. The only explanation is that Johnson is playing some pretty good golf.

"Am I surprised? No. It's only two days, so it's halfway done for me," Johnson said after his 7-under 66 gave him a three-shot lead. "I'm very comfortable as a competitor. One of my goals every year is those par 5s, and I'm a little bitter about that right now. But I'll get over it."

Defending champion Dustin Johnson birdied half of the holes at Kapalua for a 66 and was three shots behind, along with Matt

Kuchar (68) and Jordan Spieth (70).

Zach Johnson was at 13-under 133.

Dustin Johnson approaches the Plantation Course differently. He birdied all the par 5s with his length, and only fell back with a pair of bogeys on the back nine when he missed short putts. Even so, he was in good position heading into the final two rounds of a tournament that ends Monday.

"This golf course sets up well for me," Dustin Johnson said. "I can reach all the par 5s, and there's a few short holes where you can drive it up close to the green. So if I chip and it and putt it well, I'm going to shoot a good score pretty much every time."

So what does Zach Johnson make of that outlook?

"I would say I'm up by three gross, and by eight or nine net, based on that rationale," he said. Clearly, there's more than one way to get around a course built

on a side of the mountain on the west end of Maui.

Kuchar had his second straight round of 68 with some good birdies and a few bogeys. Spieth had said he shouldn't make too many bogeys on this course if he kept it in play, though he made one on No. 7 to lose some momentum. Even so, the 20-year-old Texan had few complaints after his opening two rounds of a new year.

Webb Simpson and Michael Thompson, part of a four-way tie for the lead after the opening round, each had a 71 and were four shots behind. Masters champion Adam Scott, who can get within range of No. 1 in the world depending on his two weeks in Hawaii, had a 70 and was seven shots behind. The Australian was in dire need to a low round to at least have chance going into Monday.

Zach Johnson is going after his second straight win.

The last one was unofficial, yet

no less memorable. Johnson was four shots behind Tiger Woods in the World Challenge on the back nine and rallied to catch him, holed out from the drop zone on the 18th hole to force a playoff and then won on the first extra hole.

Except for his Masters win in 2007, it might be the most famous of his 11 victories worldwide. "When you're talking about a guy that's done what he's done and raised the bar, any time you beat him - especially if you're playing with him and come back from four shots with eight holes to go, it's going to happen. So I can deal with that."

Dustin Johnson has the power that is suited for Kapalua, and even though he had to withdraw from the pro-am with a sore neck, he appears to be hitting his stride. He twice had a batch of three straight birdies on the front nine to go out in 30 and claim a share of the lead, and even after missing the short putts on the 11th and 13th, he made three more birdies

in the final five holes. Two of them were par 5s. Both times he had a look at eagle, missing from 20 feet on No. 15 and becoming the first player all week to reach the 689-yard, downhill closing hole in two shots. He two-putted from about 35 feet for one last birdie.

That could be attributed to a slightly more typical trade wind, though Johnson still had to give it two pretty good pops with a driver and a 3-wood.

The course played about a stroke harder than the opening round. Zach Johnson is starting his 11th year on the PGA Tour. He has won a major (Woods tied for second), played on three Ryder Cup teams and knows his limitation. He said while in awe of what Woods can do, he is past the stage of intimidation. And the same goes for Dustin Johnson.

"I've played with him a number of times, too," Zach Johnson said. "I like watching him hit driver. He's not a whole lot different than a lot of the other guys I play with because they all hit it a lot further than me it seems like. ... I don't know. Dustin does not intimidate me."





# Florida State-Auburn put the BCS to rest for good

**NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (AP)—**There will be a funeral amid the celebration after the BCS championship game on Monday night.

No. 1 Florida State or No. 2 Auburn will be the last team to hoist the \$30,000 Waterford crystal football that goes to college football's champion and has become emblematic of the Bowl Championship Series. Then the BCS will be buried in the Rose Bowl after 16 years of revolutionizing the sport—and frustrating so many of its fans and participants.

“We wouldn’t have a playoff if we didn’t have the BCS,” BCS executive director Bill Hancock said Saturday during media day for the championship game.

In the end, the BCS turned out to be not a destination for college football’s postseason but part of its evolution.

Even one of its harshest critics concedes it did some good.

“It’s better than what we had, but it should have lasted four years not 16,” said Yahoo! Sports writer Dan Wetzel, who wrote the book “Death to the BCS.”

The idea for the BCS came from former Southeastern Conference Commissioner Roy Kramer. The story goes that he jotted it down on a napkin. The goal was to take a bowl system that rarely matched the top two teams after the season and give it a structure that would produce 1 vs. 2 every season.

## ASTIG

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viding the former a shield, Fake Madrid goalie Clayton Izuka did not see the ball heading to his right.

Now down and with the clock ticking, Fake Madrid tried to go for quick attacks on several occasions, but Astig Futsal’s defense was there to foil the former’s bid. Astig Futsal either kicked the ball out to the sideline or stole possession, frustrating Fake Madrid in the closing minutes

## ROLLERS

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ing double figures with Chevy Kate Alipio firing 14 and Vanessa Bartolo earning 12.

Bartolo scored a string of 12 points past the halfway mark of the first half to give Tappers a 22-18 advantage. However, Bartolo faded away in the second

## 4 TAKE

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the Oleai Sports Complex Field. Besides blanking Guam, Izuka started the CNMI’s offense, too, when his long throw was mishandled by his counterpart and



Auburn players pose with The Coaches' Trophy during media day for the NCAA BCS National Championship college football game Saturday, Jan. 4, 2014, in Newport Beach, Calif. Florida State plays Auburn on Monday, Jan. 6, 2014.

Before the BCS, there were 11 bowl games in college football history that matched the Nos. 1 and 2 teams in The Associated Press college football poll.

The BCS produced three such matchups in the first six seasons, and there was even a split championship in 2003, when Southern California finished No. 1 in the AP poll but didn’t reach the BCS title game. LSU won

of the title match.

Ermitanio made the last defensive stop when he anticipated Guinevere Borja’s pass to Edwin Kim and kicked the ball out. Joining Ermitanio on the champion team are goalie Chevy Kate Alipio, Mia Carreon, Krizel Tuazon, Diana Maniacop, Angel Sally, Mareko Tekopua, Alan Hinson, Steven Martin, and Joshua De Leon. Jershin Angeles coached Astig Futsal.

Astig Futsal was awarded a trophy for its title win, while each member of the squad re-

half, forcing Alipio, who missed the first half of the match as she was on the other court for a futsal game, to have a shootout with Pablo in the final frame.

The Futball forward went on to win the exchange, drilling 16 points, two more than Alipio’s. Pablo also drew enough support from her teammates, while Alipio had only Serafina Rogoyawa

the ball rolled into the goal.

As for Borja, she scored the lone goal that gave Whispering Palms its first championship in the girls division of the IFL. Besides leading her team to the title victory, Borja also took the Golden Boot award.

In the adults division, Quinn

that. Clearly that wasn’t what the conference commissioners who ran the system had in mind. So they tinkered, often.

“I think some of the criticism came because of the tweaks early on that were made,” Hancock said.

The LSU/USC controversy was followed a season later when the BCS’ simple, fatal flaw was exposed. What happens when there are three wor-

ceived medals. Medals were awarded, too, to Tenorio and Borja, who scored the most goals in the boys and girls divisions, respectively. Tenorio collected 14 goals in the double-round robin play, while Borja earned 13.

The Pacific Trading, Co.-sponsored Astig Futsal and Fake Madrid arranged another faceoff in the finals after bagging the Top 2 spots in the elimination round.

Foot Loose and Kanoa Mighty Orange played in the consolation game with the

backing her up in the second half.

### First Game

**Rollers 1 68** – Factor 27, Arciaga 14, Ano 12, Cayading 8, Malonzo 3, Yu 2.

**Roller 3 62** – Francisco 17, Morales 14, Rios 13, Among 7, Dancoe 4, De Luna 3, Kwon 3.

**Scoring by halves:** 24-23,

and McKagan were selected after competing in the 7th Annual Hell of Marianas Century Cycle. McKagan finished third in the women’s pro division after completing the 100-kilometer around the island race in 4:09:11. Quinn made it to the finish line earlier than McKa-

thy teams for a game built for two? Undefeated Auburn was the odd team out among perfect USC and Oklahoma. At that point many fans were in revolt and the BCS became an easy target for its detractors.

“It became cool to criticize it - which is unfortunate,” Hancock said.

Maybe so, but it’s not as if it was all unfair. And it was hard to buy some of the rea-

former winning third place after a 7-1 triumph last Saturday. Chad Shankweiler led Foot Loose to the lopsided victory, scoring two goals. John Rojas, Jherico Tiamzon, James Garcia, Bernadette Horey, and Carla Ballesteros added one each, while Anthony Fruit was the lone scorer for Kanoa.

In-kind prizes were handed to all four teams during a brief awards ceremony headed by SSS staff Angie Ito, who noted the increased participation of female players in the league.

68-62.

### Second Game

**Fulball 49** – Pablo 20, Lee 14, Castillo 7, Lumabi 6, Enquirez 2.

**Tappers 42** – Alipio 14, Bartolo 12, Rogoyawa 7, Garon 4, Francisco 4.

**Scoring by halves:** 18-22, 49-42.

sons commissioners such as Jim Delany of the Big Ten and Mike Slive of the Southeastern Conference were pushing to explain why a playoff just wasn’t possible.

They cited the academic calendar, the charity work the bowls did, the soundness of the formula used to pick the teams, the negative ramifications a playoff would have on the regular season and scheduling, Wetzel said.

“They used so many excuses that were demonstrably untrue,” he said. “It drove fans

crazy because fans were not as dumb as the BCS wanted them to be.”

Slive, motivated by what happened to Auburn, proposed a “plus-one” in 2008, which would have changed the BCS to a four-team playoff. It was shot down, but it was the beginning of the end.

Wetzel’s book came out in 2010 and it challenged everything about the BCS from how it picked the teams to where the money went.

“Very few people understood the whole system,” he said.

More and more the questioning of the BCS was coming from people who were ostensibly a part of the system.

“That’s when I knew the thing was doomed,” Wetzel said.

With momentum building for change, the last crack that made the BCS crumble came after the 2012 season, when the national championship game matched two SEC teams: Alabama vs. LSU in New Orleans.

The commissioners met a day after the game and started constructing a four-team playoff.

Hancock said the leap from the old bowl system to the BCS was far greater and more difficult than the move from BCS to playoff.

“The culture was already there,” he said.

And now that the BCS is about to be laid to rest, as with any funeral, the last word should be something nice about the departed.

“Although it was heavily criticized and misunderstood,” said Hancock, “the BCS did everything it was intended to do and then some.”

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	16	15	.516	—
Boston	13	20	.394	4
Brooklyn	12	21	.364	5
Philadelphia	12	21	.364	5
New York	10	22	.313	6½
SOUTHEAST DIVISION				
Miami	25	8	.758	—
Atlanta	18	16	.529	7½
Washington	14	16	.467	9½
Charlotte	15	20	.429	11
Orlando	10	23	.303	15
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Indiana	26	6	.813	—
Chicago	14	18	.438	12
Detroit	14	19	.424	12½
Cleveland	11	22	.333	15½
Milwaukee	7	26	.212	19½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST DIVISION				
San Antonio	26	8	.765	—
Houston	22	13	.629	4½
Dallas	19	14	.576	6½
New Orleans	15	17	.469	10
Memphis	14	18	.438	11
NORTHWEST DIVISION				
Oklahoma City	26	7	.788	—
Portland	26	8	.765	½
Minnesota	16	17	.485	10
Denver	15	17	.469	10½
Utah	11	25	.306	16½
PACIFIC DIVISION				
L.A. Clippers	23	13	.639	—
Golden State	22	13	.629	½
Phoenix	20	12	.625	1
L.A. Lakers	14	19	.424	7½
Sacramento	10	22	.313	11
TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS SCORES				
KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP) — Scores Friday from the Tournament of Champions, a \$5.7 million U.S. PGA Tour event at the 7,452-yard, par-73 Plantation Course at Kapalua Resort:				
FIRST ROUND				
Michael Thompson	33-33	66		
Chris Kirk	33-33	66		
Jordan Spieth	34-32	66		
Webb Simpson	34-32	66		
Ryan Moore	32-35	67		
Kevin Streelman	31-36	67		
Jason Dufner	30-37	67		
Zach Johnson	33-34	67		
Matt Kuchar	33-35	68		
Sang-Moon Bae	34-35	69		
Ken Duke	36-34	70		
Brian Gay	36-34	70		
Patrick Reed	32-38	70		
Harris English	37-33	70		
Brandt Snedeker	33-37	70		
Dustin Johnson	36-34	70		
Adam Scott	35-35	70		
Martin Laird	36-35	71		
Scott Brown	35-36	71		
John Merrick	35-36	71		
Boo Weekley	34-37	71		
Bill Haas	35-36	71		
Gary Woodland	35-36	71		
Woody Austin	36-36	72		
Russell Henley	34-38	72		
D.A. Points	36-36	72		
Billy Horschel	36-36	72		
Jimmy Walker	36-37	73		
Jonas Blixt	36-40	76		
Derek Ernst	38-41	79		
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				



# 2nd DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Docomo Pacific players hoist the championship trophy during the awards ceremony for the 2nd DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League late last month at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court. Docomo beat San Antonio in the finals, 72-69.



San Antonio's Bryle Alegre receives the Mythical Team member trophy from a representative of sponsor DL Corp. Also in the photo is a representative from sponsor Hair Studio.



I Love Saipan's Mike Olaitiman poses with his Mythical Team member and regular season MVP trophies.



Docomo's Juan Camacho smiles to the camera after getting the Finals MVP and Mythical Team member trophies.



NMI Contractor's Leo Galarse shows his Mythical Team member trophy.



Players of fourth placer I Love Saipan pose with their trophy.



Players of third finisher NMI Contractor pose with their trophy.



San Antonio players receive the runner-up trophy.



Officials and volunteers of the league pose for a photo after concluding the competition.



Luck rallies Indy  
to 45-44 playoff  
win over Chiefs

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Durant carries Thunder  
to win over  
Timberwolves

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Astig Futsal keeps championship

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**A**stig Futsal won its rematch against Fake Madrid to rule the Saipan Soccer School's 2013 U13 Co-ed Christmas Futsal Tournament.

Astig Futsal pulled off a 2-1 victory in the title match last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex to duplicate its 1-0 championship win against the same team in the U12 division of the 2012 edition of the annual tournament. The championship in the 2013 tournament was Astig Futsal's fourth, as it also topped the boys U15 and girls U17 divisions of the inaugural event (2011).

James Ermitanio helped Astig Futsal add another trophy to its collection after scoring both goals in the title rematch against Fake Madrid. He lit up the

scoreboard in the opening half of the first frame to lift Astig Futsal to a 1-0 win. Then past the halfway mark of the first 25 minutes of play, Sunjoon Tenorio equalized for Fake Madrid.

The championship match remained even in the majority of the second half until Ermitanio converted a free kick around the last eight-minute mark of the game. He

hit the go-ahead goal from the right sideline several steps away from the midcourt. The Astig Futsal forward went for a cross and with players packed near the box and seemed to be pro-

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Astig Futsal players and coach, standing fourth from left, pose for a photo after receiving the championship trophy in the Saipan Soccer School's 2013 U13 Co-ed Christmas Futsal Tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

## Rollers 1 hands Rollers 3 first loss



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Prince Factor scored 27 points to power Rollers 1 to a 68-62 win over Rollers 3 in the boys division of the 2013 Sun Palace Christmas Basketball Tournament last Friday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The victory was second in a row for Rollers 1, which dropped its opener against Rollers 2. Rollers 3 absorbed its first defeat after a 2-0 start.

Factor drilled majority of his baskets in the second half and helped Rollers 1 keep its distance against the persistent Rollers 2 crew. Factor, who had only three field goals in the first half that ended with Rollers 1 ahead by only a hair, 24-23, fired 18 points in the second, including 8 straight midway in that canto.

Teaming up with Factor in foiling Rollers 3's upset bid in the second half was Mike Arciaga, who knocked in 11 of his 14 markers in the final 20 minutes of play. Joining Factor and Arciaga on the list of double figure scorers for Rollers 1 was Jaron

Ano, who chipped in 12.

Wilfredo Francisco led Rollers 3's offense with his 17 markers, while Kyle Rios added 15, but was limited to two field goals in the second half. Christian Morales contributed 12.

With Rollers 3 ending its streak, it now shares the second spot with its tormentor behind the undefeated Rollers 2 (3-0). Completing the field are Rollers 4 and FTMP, which hold similar 1-1 card, Dream Team (0-2), and Rollers 5 (0-3). Of

the seven teams competing in the boys division, only the Top 4 after the round-robin play will advance to the single-elimination playoffs.

### Futball 49, Tappers 42

In the girls division, Futball barged into the win column after beating Tappers.

Diane Pablo top-scored in Futball's first victory in three games, nailing 20 points. Jenny Lee also finished in twin digits with his 14. Tappers, which dropped to a 0-3 slate in the first round of the double round-robin play also had two players tally-

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## 4 take last awards for 2013 season

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Four athletes made up the last batch of Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association's monthly awardees for 2013.

The group is composed of soccer's Clayton Izuka and Guinevere Borja, who were named TSL Foundation/NMASA Male and Female Student Athletes of the Month (December) and cycling's Russ Quinn and Kimiko McKagan, who were selected Male and Female Athletes of the Month.

It was only the second time for the entire 2013 season that NMASA had a complete roster of award-ees. The first time it happened was in February when volleyball's Tyce Mister and Chenny Lizama took and top honors in

the adults category and joined student awardees Clay McCullough-Stearns, also of volleyball, and swimming's Miku Tammy.

Last month's student awardees were picked after their notable performance in the 2013-2014 NMIFA/PSS Interscholastic Football League. Izuka was the goalkeeper of Saipan International School in the IFL and he towed the Geckos to a final stint against eventual champion Whispering Palms. The SIS goalie went on to take the Golden Glove award in the league af-

ter giving up only five goals in the entire season.

Izuka was also the goalkeeper for the CNMI U12 National Team that

shut out Guam, 4-0, in the 2013 Marianas Football Cup held at

See 4 TAKE on Page 26



Izuka



Borja



McKagan



Quinn

Tappers' Alyanna Joy Garon pulls up for a running jumper against Futball's Diane Pablo during the first half of their game in the Sun Palace holiday caging last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO